

FRIDAY 9 MAY 1997

IN THE TABLOID: STYLE



IN THE TABLOID: 8 PAGES OF MERCO













Cabinet of hope and hard work

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Tooy Blair and the Cabinet yesterday agreed the first Queen's Speech instalment of a radical new Labour agenda for Britain, and kept yet another promise by deciding to forego

this year's Cabinet pay rise.
But the Prime Minister's office confirmed yesterday's exclusive Independent report that there would be no early legislation on opeo governmeot. Actioo oo cigarette advertising and a reform of the financing of political parties could also be stalled.

Having reminded Cabinet colleagues that the pledges made in the campaign would be at the heart of the Government programme, Mr Blair said: "There is hope and optimism out there; hard work to be

The Cabinet, which broke with traditioo and called each other by first oames rather than by ministerial title, agreed the Queen's Speech legislative package that will take the new government through to the autumn

on next year. The full speech will be delivered at the State Opening of Parliament oo Wednesday.

While the Prime Minister's office refused to confirm speculation that the package would contain about 20 Bills, there will be two Bills on education, ooe on health, another on crime and disorder; and another oo the reforms to the Bank of England announced by Gordoo Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Toesday, aloog with an early Bill to set up the referendums oo Scottish

and Welsh devolution... John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, said in Downing Street after the Cabinet had ended that he was very proud of the Queen's Speech.

"It reflects all those priorities that we had in the general election - that of education, crime and jobs, decentralisation and devolution,"

"I am looking forward to implemeeting that programme and showing that a different government can make a difference. And that is what our Queeo's Speech will reflect." The Cabinet agreement to forego

Queen's speech: the key legislation

Education Bills - To reduce class sizes for 5, 6, and 7 year-olds. raise standards and tackle underachievement. General Teaching Council to be established to raise the standing of the profession; stimulation of private finance for school renovation.

cracy surrounding internal market. aimed at diverting resources from administration Into medical care.

Crime Bill - "Fast track" procedure to deal with persistent young

this year's pay rise had been promised by Mr Brown last February, when he decounced the excessive nature of the increase that had been awarded under the pay review

body process. Mr Blair will be take an effective pay cut of just under 29 per cent -with a salary of £102,417 rather offenders. Probable measures to ensure delinquent children's parents take responsibility; action

Finance Bill - Changes to the Bank of England; as announced by the Chancellor this week.

against disruptive neighbours.

Health Bill - Reduction of bureau- Referendum Bill - to set up two referendums, on a parliament and tax-raising powers for Scotland, and on a Welsh assembly. To be followed by full-scale devolution Bills on setting up a Scottish barliament and a Welsh assembly.

> than the full £143,860 to which he is entitled. Cabinet members will follow his lead by taking an effective pay cut of over 15 per ceot, taking £87,851, rather than the full £103,860 which they could draw. The full award will be taken, instead, from next

Mr Blair has also decided to set



up a oew policy unit at Number 10, for the momeot headed by David Miliband, who worked in Mr Blair's office in Oppositioo. He is to be director of policy, but Mr Blair was said to be looking for an overall strate-gic director, with what one aide called

a melon-sized brain". But the focus of much attentioo during the day was oo the commitment to open government that Mr Blair had enthosed about only last

Following yesterday's Independent report that long-awaited legislatioo was to be delayed for another 18 mooths, with yet another White Paper to be published outlining Government views, there was confusion yesterday morning when Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, indicated that there might after all be legislation in the Queen's

Later, however, he told Sky News: "We have to bring forward a White Paper on it first of all. We cao't just pull off some Bill from the shelf and introduce it straight away. But we're very committed to it."

That was oot the view of Whitehall insiders, who said that Mr Mandelson was oot at all committed to the legislation, described by one very senior source close to the Prime Minister as "the death of journalism".

The same source said there was no watering down of the commitment to legislation, but he said that min-

isters had been faced with two choic es: either to enact the existing Code of Practice on Access to Government Information; or to spend time drawing up "meaningful" legislation.

In the meantime, he said, a Freedom of Information Unit would be set up under David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in the Cahinet office.

Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said: "If you give ministers two or three years to operate under the old rules, they will pick up bad habits which they will be reluctant to hreak.

Other questioo marks were also being raised last night over the Government's enthusiasm for the abolition of the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords, and although Mr Blair yesterday welcomed a report on food safety, it was noted that there was no timescale for the creation of a Food Standards Agency.

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Leading article, page 19 Suzanne Moore, page 21 Andrew Mart, page 21

Top Tories shy away from by-election

Chief Political Correspondent

The Tories were faciog the prospect of a further humiliating defeat and an increase in Labour's majority with a byelection in the normally safe Home Counties seat of Uxbridge, following the sudden death of Sir Michael Shersby,

Frieods of Michael Portillo were last oight discounting any possibility of the former secre-

QUICKLY

IRA truce demanded

Tony Blair and John Bruton, the Irish PM, demanded a "quality" IRA truce before Sinn Fein can coter peace talks. Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland

Secretary, damped hopes that

it could be admitted by 3 June,

when the talks resume. Page 5

HRT under scrutiny

A study of women's health in-

volving 1 million middle-aged

Britons was launched to settle

the argument about the risks

and beoefits of hormone re-

placement therapy. Page 5

That's entertainment

The Government is to start

talks with BT on allowing it into

eotertainment broadcasting,

following a promise that it

would be allowed to compete

with cable television in return

for connecting hospitals, schools and libraries with the su-

him to enter the Conservative Party leadership race.

You will have to drag someone to stand," said one of Mr Portillo's frieods. "With the voters in their current mood, we are likely to lose it."

Sir Michael had held the seat since 1972, but last Thursday saw his majority slashed by Labour from 13,179 to just 724. His death at home, seven days after his narrow victory, added

tary of state for defence running to the Tory woes, reduced the io the by-election to eoable total number of Conservative return to Westminster, but his oo chance of winning. icy under a new leader to engage in the may stand, although he has icy under a new leader to engage in the devolved parliaments. total oumber of Couservative seats to 164 and iocreased

Labour's majority to 178.

The threat of a further defeat by Labour is likely to put off other ex-cabinet ministers who lost their seats, such as Ian Lang, Michael Forsyth and Malcolm Rifkind.

The Tories are expected to try to hold off the by-election until the late summer. That could revive the possibility of Chris Patten, the Gov-

friends said after presiding at the hand-over of the colooy to. China, he was planning to spend the summer in France writing a book on the tiger ecocomies

Bill Cash, the ardent Eurosceptic, may join the leadership cootest to force a more hostile policy to be adopted by the eventual winner against a federal Europe. He fuelled speculation that

Stepheo Dorrell, the former secretary of state for health, an-nonoced yesterday that he would be taking his leadership campaign to Scotland and Wales, where the Tories were wiped out in the geoeral election.

The other camps were also reporting a surge in demand by Tory members in Scotland and Wales for their parties to be revived, possibly by a shift of pol-

in the devolved parliaments. Lord Archer, who is backing

Peter Lilley's stand for the leadership, echoed demands among party members for a change in the leadership rules to allow the grass-roots supporters to have a say in the choice of a leader.

It is too late to change the outcome oow, but he said the Tories would be "in the wilderness" for years, if they did oot make changes for the future. Obitnary, page 18



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Tycoon gets 14 years for world's biggest fraud

Kim Sengupta

The world's biggest fraud trial ended yesterday in major controversy over Britain's legal aid system.

Ahhas Gokal, convicted of a \$1.2bn (£740m) fraud involving the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, was jailed for 14 years, as well as being fioed a record £2.9m - a sum the Old Bailey court is convinced he can pay

from millions he has secreted away. The judge, Mr Justice Buxton, also awarded costs of £4.3m against the disgraced Pakistani shipping magnate - although this ordered was stayed until his assets can be traced by the authorities.

However, the court heard that Gokal, 61, had received £4m of tax-

said he was convinced Gokal had while extraditioo proceedings were more than adequate funds to mount his own defence. However, he added that he would not pass any comment about the "appropriateness" of the legal aid board giving ecuting authorities being consulted out money to Gokal.

Gokal was a close friend of Has-

san Abedi, the late founder of BCCI. He was the biggest single borrower hefore hanking authorities shut BCCI down to 1992 after discovering fraud amounting to \$20on. The Serious Fraud Office in London is convinced that Gokal and his associates have at least £100m hidden in a web of foreign bank

accounts and shelf companies. Anthony Hacking QC, for the prosecution, told the court that afpayers' money on legal aid to fund ter his arrest at Frankfurt airport

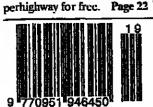
his 125-day trial. Mr Justice Buxton Gokal had paid for German lawyers going on. This continued until he arrived at Brixton prison in 1994. Mr Hacking said he was awarded legal aid in 1995 without the pros-

Awarding costs of £4.3m against Gokal the judge said he was not "prepared to let this matter pass". Gokal would, however, be expected to pay £2.9m oo a confiscation order within two years. Failure to do so would lead to a further threeyear jail term.

are an intelligeot, sophisticated and unscrupulous man, who put the interests of yourself and your family before all else."

Secteoring Gokal, the judge said: "I am wholly satisfied that you

Abbas Gokal: Jailed for 14 years after being Fraudster jailed, page 22 convicted of a £1.2bn BCCI fraud



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Priest cleared of sexually abusing altar boys

A priest at the centre of altar boy sex obuse allegations was yesterday cleared by a jury of all 19 charges. Relatives and supporters of Father Edward Kilpatrick, 53,

subbed with joy after the jury foreman read out the "Not guilty" verdicts at the end of the 13-day trial at Armagh Crown Court The cieric's two occusers, e 30-year-old civil servant, and e 32-year-old teacher who is e former student priest and e homosexual. were not in court to hear the verdicts.

Fr Kilpatrick, a parish priest of Muriog, Co Donegal, is a former diocesan secretary to the now-retired Bishop of Derry Dr Edward Daly. The allegations of gross indecency and indecent assault dated back more than 20 years to when he was a curate in Steelstown parish, Londonderry.

Plea to pay human egg donors

Egg donors should be paid up to £450 for helping childless couples,

the head of a leading fertility clinic said yesterday.

Professor Ian Craft, director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, said the current £15 fee plus travelling expenses allowed for donation was unrealistic in today's commercial world.

Egg donation for financial reward is forbidden in Britain. However, some critics claim this has led to a serious shortage of denors. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which licenses clinics, intends to phase out all payments for egg donation.

Tyneside weapons haul

An Uzi machine-gun was among a haul of weapons displayed vesterday as the fruits of an anti-crime drive.

The 51 firearms seized during Operation Rally in which police focused on known offenders on North Tyneside over the past nine months also included shotguns, pistols and rifles.

Some 66 people being have been charged with a range of offences, involving robbery, violent disorder, drugs, theft and firearms. The commander of Tynemouth police, Superintendent Ion Stoddart, said the operation had been instrumental in reducing crime by a quarter in his district so far this year - and by 17 per cent across the whole force area.

Gucci lover denies cruelty



The mistress of the late fashion millionaire Paolo Gucci vesterday pleaded not guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to 13 Arab horses at his former estate. Penny Armstrong, 28, denied 13 charges involving animals at Millfield Farm, Rusper, West Sussex, The former stable girl appeared before Horsham magistrates to deny 12 of the charges related to between 12 December 1996 and 2 January 1997, and another in December last year.

Teachers shall show humility

Teachers are being invited to obey a new code of values for their profession, including a commandment to admit they sometimes get

The set of ethical principles, the first of its kind to be devised for the education service, is based on two years' work by universities responsible for teacher training.

Among the 11 commandments, published by the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers, are four calling on teachers to exercise humility towards others, including their pupils. They are told to recognise their own fallibility and be willing to admit they may be "mistaken in respect of knowledge and of behaviour".

A spokesman for the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers said teachers have one single commandment to offer: "Thou shalt listen to the voice of the

Smokers' weight gain explained

Smokers who kick the habit and then gain weight may do so because they have a lower level of a hormone which controls

appetite, according to new research.

Findings of a team hased in Newcastle end Melbourne, Australia which are published in the latest issue of the *International Journal* of Obesity indicate that smokers have lower levels of leptin, which moderates hunger.

Smoking makes the appetite centre in the brains of smokers more sensitive to leptin so their appetite is suppressed. When a person stops smoking the brain becomes less receptive to leptin so they eat more which often results in weight gain. Glenda Cooper

Nazi gold in German bank vault

A Jewish organisation yesterday called for a search of German bank vsults after it emerged that two Nazi-looted bars of gold were transferred to the Bank of England as recently as last September.

The two hars were originally obtained by the Nazis in 1942 from the Bank of France where the Belgians had placed them for safekeeping. The Deutsche Bundesbank found them last year and passed them to the Tripartite Gold Commission fund which was set up to oversee the return of the looted gold. Louise Jury

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Jenny Hope: I hope things will be different and I can make a fresh start' (Photograph: PA)

Firefighter breaks the mould after sex harassment case

woman firefighter yesterday took the highly the fire service. It was unpleasant and I was angry and unusual decision to return to her old job after. winning compensation for sexual harrassment. Jenny Hope, who accepted £5,000 in an out-of-court settlement, said she was subjected to offensive behaviour and ridicule after joining the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire Service. Objectionable comments were made about her appearance and one male colleague even refused to speak to her, she said.

Ms Hope, a 31-year-old mother of two, said she was apprehensive about returning to work, but had received support from other firefighters in Bedford and thought that people had learned from their mistakes.

"I'm glad I've got the opportunity to go back. I hope things will be different and I can make a fresh start," she said .

Ms Hope, who has been on sick leave for eight months, toldiof her time in the service after joining two years ago: "I got the feeling that I wasn't wanted therebecause I was a woman. It seemed as if I had to justify myself all the time and in the end I lost my self-

"It went well beyond the normal banter you get in

upset at the time. All I ever wanted was for it to stop so I could get on with my job of being a firefighter." Three firemen were given written warnings, sent on sex discrimination courses and moved to other fire stations following the complaints.

She hoped that other women who found themselves In similar situations could see it was possible to take their case to an industrial tribunal and still return to their jobs.

 Bronwen Jenkins, of trade union solicitors Thompsons, said it was unusual for a woman in such a case to return to work. "Normally they suffer double jeopardy - sex discrimination and losing their job."

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, said ha was delighted Ms Hope felt that she could go back to work."By pursuing sexual harrassment cases for members and negotiating proper equal opportunites procedures, we are beginning to change attitudes." Paul Brown, deputy chief fire officer, said the brigade admitted no liability in the case and said the settlement was "amicable and productiva"

Barrie Clement

Judge Gerald Butler QC (right), one of Britain's most colnurful and outspoken judges, retired yesterday with a call for a wide ranging

overhaul of the legal system. The senior judga at Southwark Crown Court in London for tha past 13 years, he asked for an inquiry into how juries make decisions and questioned whether judges needed to sum up cases at the end of a trial.

Judge steps down

with call for

legal review

Judge Butler, 66, has overseen a series of high profile cases, including those involving Liz Hurley, after she was mugged by a girl gang; pop star Sting, who memo-rably told how he "falled to notice" whan his accountant siphoned off £690,000 from his current account as part of a multi-million pound fraud; TV comic Craig Charles, who was cleared of rape; and footballer Dennis Wise, who successfully appealed against a conviction

for attacking a London cab driver. He is also the only judge in living memory to order the arrest of a barrister in open court following

a heated clash of views. Addressing a gathering of barristers and judges at a formal farewell ceremony in his honour, he asked: "Why has there never been some inquiry and report es to what actually goes on in the jury room? If there were, we would



discover if our directions of law are understood and followed. "I for my part believe there would be quite a few shocks if

thare were that inquiry.

He then questioned the need for judges to sum up at the end of cases, saying: "It has always seemed to me that is wholly unnecessary. All the jury need to be given are directions as to the law." Judge Butler, who lists his interests in Who's Who as rugby. opera, Japanese pottery and walking, was called to the Bar In 1955 and moved on to the Bench in 1977 as a crown court Recorder. Five years later he was appointed a circuit judge, and in 1984 be-

came senior judge at Southwark. Lord Justice Auld, senior presiding judge in England and Wales, praised Judge Butler's "intellectual authority and robust common sense".

Heart operation for Heseltine

Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, who was admitted to hospital with heart trouble last weekend, underwent surgery yesterday to widen the artaries supplying blood to his heart.

The operation, known as an angioplasty, was carried out at tha private Harley Street Clinic in London. In a brief statement last night, Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, said tha surgery had been a success. "He is resting comfortably and hopes to go home in a few days," he said.

The operation indicates that Mr Hesaltine's condition is more serious than simple fatigue caused by the rigours of tha election campaign. He had a heart attack in 1993 while on holiday in Venice but always insisted it was only a minor attack from which he had fully recovered.

Mr Heseltine underwent an angiogram earliar this week, in which radio-opaque dye was injected into his heart which must have revelaed a blockage. The angioplasty, which was necessary to clear it, invnives threading a wire carrying a tiny balloon through the artery in the groin up to the heart. The bal-loon is then inflated, stretching the narrowed artery, before being withdrawn to allow the blood to flow.

Mr Heseltine withdrew from the Tory leadership race last Saturday, having been the bookies' favourite.

briefing

TRANSPORT

Traffic increase puts more pressure on motorways

Britain's packed motorways are growing ever more busy, according

to Government figures released yesterday.

Motorway traffic grew 3.9 per cent last year and these roads are now carrying more vehicles than other trunk routes, even though they make up only a quarter of the trunk road system. Place
Department of Transport statistics for 1996 also showed that
overall motor traffic increased by 2.7 per cent
Towards the end of their term in office, the Conservatives were

moving away from the idea of building more roads to cope with traffic growth. Instead, they were concentrating more on schemes to make better use of existing highways, including many widening schemes, and trying to encourage more use of public transport.

The new Government is committed to an even more vigorous.

policy of "greening up" transport and promoting alternatives to/the

HEALTH

Upsurge in abortions continues

Abortions were still rising nearly a year after the 1995 scare over the contraceptive pill, according to the latest figures released by the Office for National Statistics. Between June and September last year there was e rise of 2,721 ebortions for women resident in England and Wales, or 7.1 per cent, compared with the same period in the previous year. In total, 41,162 terminations were

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service, the main provider of abortion services outside the NHS, said it had seen an increase of 10.4 per cent over this period and warned it would take some time before numbers settled and returned to the steady decline that was evident before the Pill scare in October 1995.

"Many women remain unsettled and unsure about using the Pill, they need time to become confident again and importantly they need access to information which helps them understand exactly what the CSM announcement meant to them," said Carol Roberts, spokeswoman for BPAS. "Until women's confidence in the contraceptive pill returns, they will continue to use less effective methods of contraception and therefore increase their risk of getting pregnant."

SOCIETY

Single life for homeowners

The number of single people buying homes and living alone has almost trebled in 18 years, eccording to a survey published yesterday. A reduction in the amount of good quality homes for rent could partly explain the increase, said the Department of Environment

Figures from the Office for Netional Statistics showed that the numbers had risen from 370,000 in 1977-78 to 1 million in 1995-96. Younger people were said to be behind the increase, and the figures showed there were more than six times as many owner-

occupiers aged under 45. who had never married, than in 1977-78.

Alan Holmans, a contributor to the report. said: "The sheer number of single men, and to a lesser extent women, is behind the changes. And in parts of the country where house prices are lower, there are more owning and fewer renting."

The third report of the Survey of English Housing based on interviews in 20,000 private households, also showed that 200,000 households took in lodgers.



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WEATHER

Cold truth about warmer climes

Cold snaps can be fatally bad news for bot-blooded Italians and Greeks, according to a study which shows that death rates in warm comitries rise faster as temperatures drop than they do in chillier regions. This is because people used to the heat forget to wrap up when the weather gets cold and do not heat their bomes properly, it is suggested.

Researchers led by Professor WR Keatinge, from Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, investigated the link between death rate and temperature change in different parts of Europe.

The areas studied were northern Finland, southern Finland, south-western Germany, the Netherlands, Loudon, northern Italy, Athens, and Palermo in Sicily.

Death rates for most regions were at their lowest when daily: temperatures were around 18C (64.4F). The death rates then rose with each 1C drop in temperature, with the biggest increases so in places that had mild winters.

in southern Finland, where the average winter temperature -1C, mortality increased by 0.27% for each 1C fall from 18C. But in Athens, where winters average 12.7C, the average mortality increase for each 1C fall from 18C was 2.15%.





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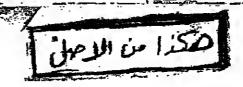
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Our ante-natal babysitter, by the parents of surrogate triplets



Social Affairs Correspondent

It was a matching of opposites: the grandmother and the childless pair, the surgeoo and the pub cook; the Orthodox Jewish couple and the Gentile mother.

But yesterday Julic and Anthony Cohn could oot contain their gratitude for Anne Keep, the 41year-old who acted as the surrogate mother of their triplets Albert, George and Henry. "I believed some wonderful thing would hap-pen and it has," said Mr Cohn. "We didn't think we would ever find anyone as wonderful and giv-ing, as superb and selfless as Anne,"

said Mrs Cohn. "She is completely full of goodness and love." Mrs Keep who has three grandchildren of her own acted as "an-tenatal habysitter" after being put in touch with the Cohns through

childless couples and surrogates together.

Overcoming odds of f000-f, the triplets were conceived after doctors implanted two eggs taken from Mrs Cohn and fertilised with her husband's sperm. fn Mrs Keep's womb, one of the eggs split into identical twins.

pital in Birmingham in March, weighing between two and three pounds each, but have doubled in weight after moving to the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north-west London. Yesterday they gur-gled and cried as they bugged their tiny teddy bears.

Speaking for the first time since

the birth the Cohns said they had struck up an instant rapport with Mrs Keep and would be keeping in close touch "for the rest of their

Cots (Childlessness Overcome lives". Mrs Cohn, a 27-year-old Through Surrogacy), which puts lecturer who was born without a womb, said: "We have learnt so much from her about giving and about selflessness. She is a fantastic woman."

Mrs Keep was paid expenses. Commercial surrogacy was banned in Britain after Kim Cotton, Britain's first surrogate mother to go public. was paid £6,500 in 1985 to have a baby for an infertile couple. The childreo were born in bos-

The Cohns said they felt moral critics of surrogacy were unfair and failed to understand the plight of the childless couple. "The only surrogacy we really know about is the one we went through," said Mr Cohn. "It was such a wonderful experience and has been such a positive thing. ft has given us something we would never have been able to have oth-

His wife added: "It's unfair for people to comment on moral grounds if they haven't gone through it. Anne is a person who has given so much If anyone looked at our last year-and-a-half, they would see we have no qualms whatsoever."

Surrogacy and fertility treatment have been a vexed question in the Jewish community for some time. For the Orthodox, Jewishness is transmitted only through biological mothers. But it is not clear from traditional Jewish teaching whether a mother is the woman whose egg grows into a baby, or the woman whose womb nourishes it, if the two rofes are separated as they are

Fraybin Gottlieb, assistant regis-trar at the London Beth Din, the court of the Chief Rabbi, said yesterday: "It is a very sensitive issue ... and one one which there are various opinions. There is no one single religious ruling either in this country or abroad."



The big question a computer cannot ask: Is Kasparov making the wrong moves?

William Hartson

What is Garry Kasparov playing at in New York? After four games of his chess match against the IBM computer, Deep Blue, he has scored a wio, a loss and two draws. He should have lirawn the game he lost - indeed, his game could still have been saved in the final positioo when when he resigned -and he held a clear advantage in both drawn games. At the end of the fourth game yesterday, Kasparov said: "I believe it was a win ... but I was tired and I couldn't figure it out."

Is this really the man who has spread terror throughoot the chess world for the past f 2 years? Did Garry Kasparov ever resign a drawn position against Anatoly Karpov? Was he ever too tired to figure out how to heat Nigel Short? Two theories have emerged to explain Kasparov's unconvincing form m the match so far.

The rational explanation is that the orid champion is finding it extreme ly difficult to adjust to the unfamiliar problems posed by a computer opponent. Human beings teod to miscalculate in tactically complex positions. When a positioo explodes into a sudden turmoil of possible captures, checks and brutal threats, the human mind turns to mush. But that is exactly where computers are at their strongest.

It is relatively simple for a programmer to instruct his machine to look at every possible sequence of captures and checks, and thinking at some 250 million moves a second, you can be fairly sure that Deep Blue will have sort- Just suppose a world chess champion

parov has written down his previous move oo the score sheet.

When there are no tactical opportunities, however - in blocked positions for example, or where the White and Black pieces have yet to meet in handto-hand combat - computers can only stumble through hillions of possibilities,

hoping that something good turns up. In both the third and fourth games of this match, Deep Blue played some atrociously pointless, or gratuitously weakening moves when it did not un-

• When a position explodes, the human mind turns to mush 7

derstand what was happening, but once Kasparov developed direct threats, it found the perfect defences to counter them. Humans, when they start playing badly, generally have the good grace to continue doing so. Facing such a mixture of mindlessness and perfection is enough to throw anyone off balance.

But for anyone determined to reject so logical an explanation, there is a hizarre theory that has been advocated by some suspicious chess followers io the darker corners of the Internet.

ed out all the tactics by the time Kas- was challenged to a \$1m match by a large computer company. ff he gave it too sound a thrashing, he would win the prize, but it would not come back for

> The result of last year's match be-tween Kasparov and Deep Blue turned out to be perfect for all concerned. Deep Blue won ooe game, which led to unparalleled publicity for its makers as well as encouraging them to believe their programming was on the right lines. There were two draws in the middle of the match, which sustained interest to the very end, then Kasparov ran away at the eod with two contemptuously easy victories. The perfect plot. And the first four games this time

have followed an identical pattern. Has Kasparov been pulling his punches? Is be just toying with Deep Blue, in the knowledge that he can dispatch it to the junk yard whenever he

No, of course he isn't. But if he wins the last two poocots of the alternative theory will take it as strong evidence for their case. But there is a far stronger piece of

evidence pointing to the opposite conclusion: if the expression on Kasparov's face was anything other than genuine anguish while he was being pushed around by Deep Blue in the second game, then he is an even better actor than he is a chessplayer. He is, on his usual form, a good enough player to polish off Deep Blue this weekend and take the \$700,000 winner's purse. And next year IBM will surely be back for more.



Quiet game: TV screens showing Garry Kasparov as he ponders his next move against IBM's Deep Blue



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PAPERS ORT RECYCLING paper state up 41.2% of material for UK newspapers

1996

Failing British sit-coms in search of new Friends



In the can: A scene from Steptoe and Son (left), from Friends, and the sit-com artist par excellence, Tony Hancock

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

Has Anyone Seen My Pussy? could only be a Channel 4 documentary. This one is about the use of innuendo in the British

situation comedy and is the centrepiece to a weekend-long celebration of the much-ma ligned television genre to be shown at the end of this month. It will look at how the sit-com has developed and changed

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over the years and will also examine the influence of America's massive output of sit-coms. A series of mini-sit-coms using the British alternative comedi ans Matt Lucas and Bob Mortimer will parody the US brand

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of formula sit-com in shows called My Gay Dads and I'm Bland Yet All My Friends Are

Stuart Cosgrove, Channel 4's controller of arts and entertainment, believes the weekend is timely because of dehate about the merits of British and American sit-coms and the popularity of shows such as Friends and Frasier.

He believes the success of US imports comes down to familiarity. He said: "Because sitcoms are about characters, they take time to work. People need to get to know the characters and their catch-phrases, Shows like Only Fools and Horses and One Foot in the Grave took until their third series to really take

"So while Father Ted is very much an authored work, written by two people. Friends is part of a Los Angles sit-com industry and has 34 writers. That means you have eight episodes of Futher Ted a year compared with 36 episodes a year of Friends. That in turn means US sit-coms can become familiar with the audience and take off very quickly."

This is one explanation, be helieves, why the US's primetime schedules are dominated by sit-coms, while it is drama and soaps that dominate in the UK. There, he says, they have

com, while here comedy budgets are being attracted to cheaper comedy game-show formats like Have I Got News For You."

A further difference was that here most critically acclaimed sit-coms had moved out of peak time to after the 9pm watershed. Only One Foot in the Grave and repeats of Only Fools and Horses remain in the centre of the

Mr Cosgrove feels this is a function of British comedy writers turning their back on the cosy Terry and June-style suburban sit-com world.

"The closest to that form we have now is One Foot in the Grave," said Mr Cosgrove, "And it is very different.

"It is never explicitly stated. but the couple have lost a child at some time in the past and it is as if they are just waiting to die. There is a much darker melancholy permeating the show than in traditional come-

Mr Cosgrove believes that the BBC's early Eighties hit The Young Ones marked a major seachange in the kind of sit-com writers wanted to create. "The Young Ones decon-

structed the rules of the sit-com with time-warps, people walking through walls and bands playing in the middle of the livng room. Father Ted wouldn't

exist without it - it is The Young

Ones in a seminary. But it has to be remembered that the classic, timeless sit-coms, like Steptoe and Absolutely Fabulous. Son, were never just the bour-

geoisie in their living-rooms. Has Anyone Seen My Pussy? explores how, by moving to lat-er in the evening, sit-com wrist. ers could stop saying coconuts when they meant to say tits and how The Young Ones helped introduce a more up-front language that is used by shows like Men Behaving Badh or



Cea

Nuclear plant | Blacked-up child ordered to stop sweeps 'snubbed'

In an unprecedented move. Scotland's green watchdog yes-terday ordered an immediate halt of a radioactive waste processing operation at the Dounreay nuclear plant on safety grounds.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) said AEA Technology, the formerly state-owned firm running the operation, was not able to accurately monitor levels of radioactivity in gasses and liquids discharged into the sea and air from the new, purpose-huilt plant in Caithness.

The waste in question is highly-volatile sodium, and it comes from Germany. Molten sodium is used as a coolant inside fast breeder reactors but it becomes radioactive as a result.

AEA Technology is contracted to convert several dozen tonnes of the resulting contaminated sodium into a safer, less radioactive form using chemical treatments which turn it into salt and water.

This processing operation produces gasses and liquids with very low levels of radioac-tivity which are discharged into arranged two years ago.

the sea and air. In issuing a legally hinding prohibition notice the environment protection agency, an arm of government, also said it had doubts about the declared levels of radioactivity in the 86 tonnes of imported

The large Dounreay site is shared between the privatised AEA and the state-owned UK Atomic Energy Authority; both used to part of the same organisation.

A spokesman for AEA Technology said the agency's action arose out of information it had provided to the regulator. "We were surprised at this reactor to our full and fair disclosure ... we believe we can comply

with all of the agency requirements. Sepa also believes that the importation of contaminated sodium may not have complied

with laws covering waste im-

ports. It says it is considering a

prosecution. AEA Technology says the shipments had been cleared by the German authorities, the Scottish Office and HM Industrial Pollution Inspectorate. when the contracts were

The children's programme said: "This is political correct-Blue Peier has been accused of "political correctness gone mad" after an editor refused to film children dressed as chimnev sweeps because they had

blacked up faces. They were taking part in the Bank Holiday Rochester Sweeps Festival in Kent, an event started in the 18th century to celebrate May Day.

Children in the Medway town had joined Morris dancers at the festival which was immortalised by Charles Dickens

in Sketches By Boz. But a BBC crew from Blue Peter who were supposed to film the children refused after they saw their blackened faces.

Blue Peter editor Oliver Macfarlane said: "I was concerned that showing people with artificially blacked-up faces might be misunderstood and cause offence to some members of our audience.

"We did ask to film a group of other children dressed as Morris dancers but permission was refused. We are sorry to disappoint those children who expected to be filmed."

Tony Stalker, who had gone to watch the popular event,

ness gone mad.

"Everyone knows the black faces of the sweeps represents just the soot. Blue Peter should not read things into something that is just not there."

spokeswoman Rochester City Council, which organises the festival, said: Blue Peter did express an interest in taking part in the Rochester Sweeps Festival but to our disappointment decided to cancel their visit.

She added: "Blue Peter's"

decision obviously disappointed not just the council, but also the groups continuing the tradition of the dancing sweeps and individuals who were prepared to give up their time to help with filming.

The event was covered by other TV crews who had no reservations about

The council said the children had taken their inspiration from contemporary pictures of 19th century sweeps and descrip-tions by Dickens, who lived in Rochester during his last years.

The event died out at the turn of the century but was revived by the City council in the 1980s as a tourist attraction.

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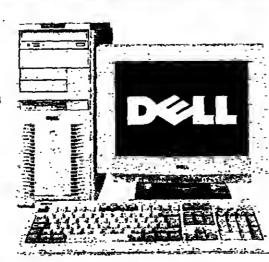
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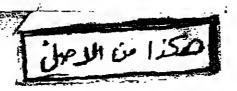


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A million women help settle HRT doubts

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

* THE INDEPENDENT

The world's largest study of women's health, involving I million middle-aged British women, was launched yesterday to settle the argument about the risks and benefits of hormone

replacement therapy.

One in three women in Britain aged 50-64 is now taking HRT to ease the symptoms of the menopause and its popularity has doubled since 1990. But doctors are still unsure what to tell women about the risks.

The treatment, once described as "the last frontier to the emancipation of women", is believed to cut the rate of heart disease but increase the risk of hreast cancer. It is also regarded as a valuable defence against the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis but may raise the risk

Fears that it also increased the risk of endometrial cancer (of the lining of the womb) have receded since the introduction of combined preparations including

progestogen. The "Million Women" study will be run by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund with the National Health Service breast screening programme. Questionnaires will be sent to all women invited for screening, seeking details of their medical history and the HRT preparation they are taking. The women are aged 50 to 64.

Professor Valerie Beral, head of the ICRF's epidemiology unit at Oxford and principal coordinator of the study, said it was fears that HRT might increase the risk of breast cancer,

coupled with the huge number of women now taking it - up to 2 million in Britain - that made the investigation essential.

"Britain is the only country in the world that can carry out this study because it is the only one with a large population and a comprehensive oational breast screening programme.

Professor Beral said the scale of the study, costing £1 m, was necessary to give clear answers. The aim was to recruit 250,000 women by the end of the year und to meet the target of 1 million by 1999. About 6,000 of them are expected to have developed hreast cancer by 1999 and a further 6,000 to have died of heart disease by 2002.

The first results are expected in five years. Professor Be-ral said: "We know there is nothing drastic going on with HRT. We hope this study will provide the facts so that when women are trying to figure out . whether or not to take it they will have the information they need to choose."

Julietta Patnick, national coordinator of the NHS breast screening programme, said the effects of HRT were a major anxiety for women. "We get a million questions a year about it and unfortunately we don't know the answers. We never like to tell women anything without the evidence to back it up. She said that if HRT increased

the risk of breast cancer it could be because it delayed the menopause and the fall in bormone levels associated with it which reduces the incidence of cancer, or it could be because it delays changes in the breast tis-



the effectiveness of screening. The pre-menopousal breast has more glandular tissue which is denser, making it harder to spot

would aim to answer these questions and whether the type of HRT for 10 years since having HRT made any difference.

menopause, has been taking self slipping into middle age a hysterectomy. "It has been Gilly Andrews, 49, a nurse wonderful. I have no qualms or who counsels patients on the anxiety about it at all. I see my-

without ever noticing the menopause has come or gone." She said she advised all her friends to take it and most had

followed her example. "I don't know anyone in my personal circle who has tried it and giveo it up. For the vast majority of

women it is the right choice.

of emancipation

Viiriam Stoppard: Ended

Up to 2 million women in Britain are estimated to be taking HRT to fend off the hot flushes, night sweats and vaginal dryness associated with the

Dr Miriam Stoppard, the television presenter and au-thor, said it stopped the "in-tellectual decay" she experienced at the

mopeuse. Claire Rayner, the agony aunt, took it be-cause of the hot flushes that "drove me potly". The novel-ist, Fay Weldon, and the Tory MP Teresa Gorman are also advocates of the treatment. It may be taken as pills. patches attached to the skin, gels or as implants which last six months. ■ About 50 preparations are on the market, ranging in cost from £3 to £12 a month. HRT is only available on prescription and the cost is bome by the NHS.

the female hormone contained in HRT, is one-sixth of that contained in the contraceptive pill.

Initial side effects include

nausea, breast tendemess

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Ceasefire call unites **Blair and Bruton**

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

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s 'snubbec

Tony Blair and John Bruton, the Trish Prime Minister, united last night in demanding a "quality ceasefire" by the IRA hefore Sinn Fein can enter the resumed peace talks in Ulster by the democratic parties.

Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, said the ball was in the IRA's court, but damped down hopes that Sinn Fein coold be admitted by 3 June, wheo the all-party talks are due to resume in Belfast.

Unless there is a dramatic shift by the IRA, the talks will oow resume without Sinn Fein, in spite of the election of two Sinn Fein MPs - Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness - in last week's election.

warned there could be a "tac-

tical manoeuvre" by the IRA in the hope of catching the two governments off balance hut there would not be a genuine cessation of violence.

"The ball is in their court. I am not sure 3 Juoe is a possihility." said Ms Mowlam after emerging from the talks between the Prime Minister and The Secretary of State for Mr Bruton in Downing Street, which she said had heen "very useful".

> agreed about the oeed for Sinn Fein to be in the talks "but for a ceasefire and there has to be a greater commitment in word and deed than we have seen in the past because of the atrocities we have experienced.

"It is the quality of the cease-

matters is ...commitment." Welcoming the fresh ap-proach by Ms Mowlam and Mr Blair, Mr Bruton said: "We didn't expect there would be instant solutions. There was an immediate indication of a positive willingness to eogage. That was most heartening and give positive hope to people in

Northern Ireland." There were hopes that their seful". first meeting could breathe new
She said both leaders were life into the stalled peace process in Northern Ireland amid increased speculation that that to happen, there has to be a renewed IRA ceasefire may be

Downing Street had spent 24 hours damping down expecta-tions of a hreakthrough.

The Prime Minister's aides insisted it was a "getting to know fire that matters. We have said you" meeting, with an oppor-for sometime that the ball is in tunity to review Sinn Fein's Unionist leader, who also met

Mr Blair 24 hours earlier,
warned there could be a "tac."

Sinn Fein's court. It is for them
and the IRA to show us it is a
quality ceasefire. I am not sure
season, and the local elections that 3 June is possible. What in Ulster later this month.





NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE







Education forms the centrepiece of

Two education Bills will form the "centrepiece" of the Queen's Speech programme for the forthcoming parliamentary year.

inet yesterday, the Prime Minister's Office said one education Bill would deal with class sizes. Because it would be short and specific, that might be expected to be through to the Statute Book by the end of the year. The second education Bill would be about educational standards and what the

reaching attack ever made on underachievement in schools." It would include creation of a General Teaching Council, to raise the standing and morale of the pro-fession; measures to deal with failing action Labour hopes will help divert reteachers, schools and education authorities:

spokesman said would be a "the most far- and a stimulation of private finance for medical care. Early legislation is promised school renovation.

There will also be legislation to get rid of some of the hureaucratic apparatus attached to the internal market in the NHS, sources from administration into front-line

to accelerate the way in which persistent young offenders are dealt with by the criminal justice system. That Home Office legislation is also expected to include action to ensure parents of delinquent children face up to their responsibilities, and action

The Queen's Speech will also include legislation to enact changes to the Bank of England, announced by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, this week. A start on the promised welfare-to-work programme will be made in next month's Budget.

Quick end to assisted places

Lucy Ward **Education Correspondent**

Two education Bills - one short and sharp, one more substantial - will be announced in the Queen's Speech next week.

The first Bill, to be moved on to the statute book as soon as possible, will deal with Labour's plans to abolish the assisted places scheme and use the cash to hring down primary school class sizes.

The Government is acting quickly in order to prevent independent schools making offers of assisted places for the 1998-9 academic year. All places already awarded will be honoured, but the money saved as the scheme is phased out will be used to ensure class sizes are no higher than 30 for five-, sixand seven-year-olds.

A White Paper to he published in June will address the core of Labour's education policy, centring on measures to raise standards in schools.

It will include moves to underpin planned improvements in literacy and numeracy to meet ambitious targets.

There will also be proposals for tackling failing schools and local education authorities. paving the way for Labour's "fresh start" policy under which inadequate schools would be closed and reopened under new leadership. The White Paper will also contain proposals for a general teaching council intended to help raise teachers' professional status.

The Bill, due in the autumn. will eod grant-maintained status in schools and create a new

"foundation" status offering similar freedoms to those enjoyed by church schools.

There are also likely to be measures linked to Labour's plans to boost lifelong learning and training.

Moves to abolish the nursery voucher scheme are already underway and do not require

Meanwhile, cash will be found to fill a £69m "black hole" in this year's hudget for further edu-

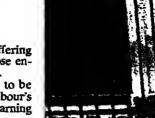
cation. colleges will be told. Further education and sixth form colleges leared they might not receive government funding they are owed for extra courses provided this term and last over and above their agreed workload.

The last government, after savpay for the work, relented under pressure but failed to say where the money would come from before being voted out of office.

Now colleges, which are al-ready under severe financial strain and are facing hudget cuts from September, will have their £69m bill met using contingency cash from the Department for Education and

to the colleges quango, the Further Education Funding Council, ready for payment. The FEFC will contribute the remaining £15m of £85m earned by colleges since new year for unexpected expansion.

long-term comfort for a sector facing a £115m cut in its funding in the next academic year.



legislation.

ing earlier this year it would not

Employment budget for 1997-8. Department sources said the money had already been passed

The decision provides no



Street talk: John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, addressing journalists in Downing Street after the new government's first Cabinet meeting

inimum wage promise to be fulfil

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

One of the key policies which will set apart the new government from the previous ad-ministration will be the establishment of a statutory

minimum wage.
The Queeo's Speech next Wednesday will set out plans for the creation of a Low Pay Com-

mission, under the chairmanship of an independent labour market expert.

Among the 15 commission-ers will be representatives of both employers' and employees' organisations, especially those representing sectors where pay is comparatively low.

The Commission will be expected to take into account ecocomic circumstances and

the need for the eradication of employees, whether full or part-"poverty pay" in arriving at a figure. The establishment of a statutory minimum will be denounced as inflatiooary and likely to cause joh losses by the

Tory opposition. It is hoped a recommendation on the rate will be made before the cod of the year and that the new statutory minimum will come into operation in

time, temporary or casual and whether they work from bome. There will be no regional or sectoral rates.

Ian McCartney, Trade and Industry Minister, is also known to be keen that the rate should also apply to the long-term unemployed who take advantage of a new community work programme.

It is expected that the minithat the wage will apply to all nancial sanctions against around £4.

employers who pay workers below the statutory level - will be struck between £3 and £3.50 an hour.

The Labour Party calculates that £3bn of taxpayers' money is used to subsidise low wages through the payment of "in-work" benefits.

While the biggest unions are calling for a minimum set at half male median earnings - calculated at £4.26 an hour - the The Speech will make clear mum - backed by a range of fi- TUC has set its sights lower at

Ken Jackson, general secre-tary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union. warned this week at his union's annual conference in Jersey that the rate should not be too bigh for fear of sending a "shockwave" through the

Mr Jackson stressed that his members - mostly skilled workers on relatively high wages would seek to maintain their pay differentials over lower-paid colleagues.

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Super-ministry takes shape

Westminster Correspondent

Confusion about the structure of the combined Departments of Environment, Transport and the Regions remained high as ministers were allocated their responsibilies yesterday.

In particular, pressure groups and others affected by the work of the departments are unclear about which department will gain precedence over the other and whether a full merger is

eventually envisaged. Yesterday, John Prescott, in charge of the new combined ministry, told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme that as yet there were no immediate plans to merge the two, which were

united as one department throughout the 1970s, having been brought together by Ted Heath's government and separated by Margaret Thatcher's.

However, he left the door open to the possibility saying: "I have inherited two departments that have been operating separately and in some cases not even talking to each other, for a long time. Integrating the thinking, hringing them together, getting a structure of political decision-making is my first priority.

However, Mr Prescott declined to commit himself on integration, asking to be given "at least up to the summer to begin to make sure that we have got the right decisions."

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the transport crisis is likely to become exacerbated as a result of cuts in the road programme and a hiatus in rail investment.

There are inherent conflicts between the two departments. Under the previous system, the Department of the Environment used to have a team monitoring the work of the Department of Transport and insiders say that this type of duplication will no longer be nec-essary if the two departments are working together.

Transport groups are reas-sured by the fact that the Department of Transport has a minister, Gavin Strang, in addition to Mr Prescott in the Cabinet, while Michael Meacher, Mr

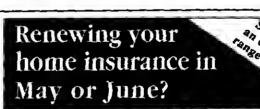
ronment, is not, However. Transport has only been given one unior ministers in the Commons - Glenda Jackson, who consequently has a fearsome workload which includes, London and in-

tegrated transport policy. By contrast, Environment bas four Commons ministers -Nick Raynsford, Angela Eagle. Riebard Cahorn and Hilary Armstrong - in addition to Messrs Prescott and Meacher.

However, environmental groups are keen to see integration. Lynn Sloman, deputy director of Transport 2000 said: "It's not a matter of the two departments just being brought together. You have to integrate their policies."

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Westminster to the legislation that had been firmly expected - or trailed - but

which was being damped down by the

Apart from the about-turn on freedom

of information, it was said that a reference

would be made to the Nolan Committee

Prime Minister's Office last night.

FRIDAY 9 MAY 1997

The second section to the second

Labour is promoting the letter as the teaching profession and to introduce "glasnost" within government. Lucy Ward

Labour's ambitious new programme

on Standards in Public Life about party political financing, with no early Bill, and that a ban on tobacco advertising would fall into the same category as freedom of information - no action for another 18 good safety.

It was unclear last night whether a food agency would be included in the Queen's

Speech, although expectations were raised when the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said in a statement: "The public has the right

"Confidence in the safety of the food we eat has been severely undermined in recent years and I am determined to re-

food safety agency.

standards agency was needed, but no tar- Cunningham, the Minister for Agriculget was set for its creation.

Instead, the Prime Minister said that David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in the Cabinet Office, would chair a new ministerial group on food safety "to take forward these proposals."

ture, has already acted to ensure greater openness in the working practices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and more responsiveness to the

needs of the public." Opening his first Cabinet, Mr Blair

been elected on a New Labour ticket, and that they should govern as New Labour.

The pledges in the manifesto contract had been at the heart of the election campaign, he said, and they would he at

Food and Health Commission which would have wide-ranging powers to combat food scares. new agency would be "open. transparent and act in the interest of consumers" and said that he would be setting up a ministerial group on food safety to consider the proposals drawn up at his request by Professor Philip James, director of

> week's Queen's Speech. Professor James said it was a matter of urgency to re- credible. You've got to be able store confidence in the way to act," he said.

the Rowett Research Institute

in Aberdeen. Legislation is ex-pected to be included in next

Tony Blair promised that the

switches to health

Food safety brief

Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent He said a target of three years should be set and that the new Responsibility for food safety agency - which would have should be taken away from the powers to act in all the recent Ministry of Agriculture and food scares such as salmonella, given to health ministers to E. coli and BSE as well as prioritise consumer interests, matters such as genetically according to a hlueprint for a modified food and pesticides should report to Parliament The report, laid before the through health rather than agri-Prime Minister yesterday, calls culture ministers. This would for a strong and independent emphasise that its priority was

the interests of consumers. But he also recommended that other ministers, including the Minister of Agriculture, should be involved, in what he said was a new "axis" between

Parliament and a public body. It was essential that the agency had teeth if it was to be an effective watchdog and that would mean having regulatory powers, the professor added. "It's clear from consultation we must have regulation. If you simply have an advisory group, given the concerns at the moment no one's going to think it's

consultation is expected before plans are finalised. The structure of the agency would be a central commission of 10 food experts appointed by the Prime Minister or ministerial council. It would also include representatives from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We've set this up as a very nowerful commission. Very high-powered scientists would be needed." said Professor James. "We're saying this is a commission which has to act on behalf of the public. This is not an anti-business commission. It must be clear and transparent.

Consumer groups welcomed the proposals. Ruth Evans, director of the National Consumer Council called it "a breath of fresh air after the secrecy within MAFF". And Tim Lang, professor of food policy at Thames Valley University, called the report a "milestone" He said: "Consumers have been campaigning for a long time to have food regulation and promotion separated."

Private-finance hospitals head NHS priorities

Among the measures on the NHS likely to be included in the Queen's Speech, legislation to free the logiam of privately financed hospital projects tops

Investors in projects such as the £173m Norfolk and Norwich hospital are holding back from giving the final go-ahead because of fears that NHS trusts may lack the legal power to enter the deals.

However, there are more fundamental worries about the viability of PFI deals in the NHS which have proved too expensive for some hospitals such as Guy's and St Thomas's where long-term commercial risks of redevelopment are high.

Labour ministers have examined the possibility of estahlishing a "health bank" - a non-government provident organisation which would raise training of dentists from the pre-funds to invest in hospitals. training of dentists from the pre-

The non-profit organisation could offer bonds, underwritten by government, to commercial investors or to local people wishing to invest in their local hospital on which they would carn a return. By attracting a wide range of investors the "bank" would spread the risk hut the NHS would retain greater control over how the in-

vestment was used. Legislation would also be required to realise Labour's pledge to end the NHS internal market and the two-lier system by altering contracting arrangements between GPs and hospitals. As part of its objective of reducing NHS bureaucracy, Labour plans to replace individual GP fundholders negotiating their own contracts with local commissioning for larger groups of GPs. In addition, Labour has inherited proposals for legislation to improve the

care of the mentally ill and the

Royal touch: Workmen repairing the Sovereign's Gate in the Houses of Parliament in preparation for the Queen's entrance next Wednesday

political shorts

London hospital closures halted

No further hospitals will close in London until a review of health services in the capital has been completed, it emerged yesterday.

The moratorium, which fulfils a Labour manifesto pledge and brings a ray of hope for threatened hospitals such as St

Bartholomew's and Guy's, was disclosed by Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, in an interview with his local paper, the Hampstead and Highgare Express, and later confirmed by the Department of

He said no decisions would be made before completion of the review, expected by the end of the year.

But he appeared to pre-empt the review'a findings by adding: "This government will not end up endorsing the previous Government's policy.

The number of hospital beds has fallen faster in London than elsewhere over the past decade but the number of patients treated from outside the capital has increased, counter to expectations when the NHS internal market was introduced in 1992, studies by the King's Fund, the health policy think tank, say. Jeremy Laurance

Heads sent rallying cry

Headteachers in every school in England are today being urged to lay aside scepticism and join the crusade to raise

standards in the classroom. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, is sending out letters to heads and chairs of governors in both state and independent schools hailing a "new beginning for the education

Pledging to set up "new machinery" for consultation to allow schools to make their views heard, he says the Government is interested in "what works" rather than

evidence of its commitment both to listen to

Cherie holds court

INCHES POPULAR INCHES

After the euphoric post-election celebrations and a snappy house move, it was husiness as usual for Cherie Booth yesterday. Ms Booth QC, made the 10minute trip from Downing Street to the Royal Courts of Justice in order to make

her first court appearance since the election. In Court 72, the £200,000-a-year barrister, who specialises in public and employment law, greeted the packed press bench with good humour. I'm glad you are all so keen to learn about employment law," she told them. Clare Garner Leading article, page 19

Backbenchers' guide

Help is on hand for the hundreds of new MPs currently wandering the corridors of Westminster in a state of bewilderment. Old hand Paul Flynn's new book, Commons Knowledge – How to be a Backbencher, which is published today, is the latest in a line of manuals which profit by challenging the parliamentary culture of unwritten rules.

He advises on topics including "How to be Virtuoso Bore", "How to Doughnut" and "How to Climb the Greasy Pole". Mr Flynn, Backbencher of the Year in 1996, has areputation for a no-nonsense approach. His chapter "How to convince Voters that the MP Never Stops Working", advises simply:
"Never stop working." Ben Summers

Gommons Knowledge, ISBN 1-85411-206-6, is published by Seren Books; £6.95.

Sir Ted leads the way

Sir Edward Heath, the former prime minister and the longest-serving MR took the oath of the Commons for the fourteenth time yesterday. The process continues over the next few days for newer members, all of whom must swear or affirm allegiance to the Queen before they can sit in the House.

The right of the powers involved was once taken for granted, but neither God nor the Queen command the universal respect of the House any longer. Atheist members have had the right to affirm, rather than swear, their allegiance for some years. Many Labour members, and at least one Tory MP, took advantage of this yesterday.



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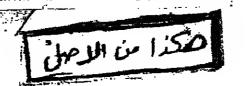
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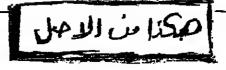
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tory leadership



Clarke scents victory over divided right

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke will lead the field in the first ballot for the Tory party leadership, accord-ing to his backers and other senior Party sources, who believe he will benefit from a split vote on the Conservative right wing.

William Hague remains the front runner with Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, and is gathering votes on the centreright. But a concerted whispering campaign to freeze out John Redwood is being mounted by all the rival camps for the party lead-ership. One right-wing supporter of Peter Lilley said: "Redwood would be a disaster and spin the party "

The hitterness against Mr Redwood, who made himself a Cabinet outcast when he resigned to fight John Major in 1995, will make it difficult for a new leader to bring the Wokingham MP into the shadow Cabinet.

Mr Clarke's campaign will have to overcome a chaotic start, when his advisers were denied access to the Commons because their Treasury passes had been withdrawn. His campaign team had to move into temporary accommodation at the offices of the Tory Reform Group. The former Chancellor's team are counting on Mr Clarke sweeping more than 50 votes in the first round while the rightwing vote splits four ways, between Mr Red-wood, Mr Howard, Mr Hague and Mr Lilley,

Mr Clarke's expected lead will put pressure on Stephen Dorrell, the other candidate on the left, to throw his support behind Mr Clarke, "Dorrell has about 10 votes and we can only identify about eight of them." a Clarke supporter said.

The Clarke camp are expecting to gain momentum from the backing of Michael Heseltine in a fortnight, when he is ht again after the heart scare which ruled him out for the leadership. Although he is the one who is most feared by Labour, Mr Clarke still may

not gain enough centre-right votes to win.

Mr Dorrell lost ground on the left by appearing to tilt to the Euro-sceptic right. Yesterday he moved again to keep open the option of joining a single currency in the long term. He said Tories should oppose joining the single currency, "unless long-term convergence is a proven and established fact." As that was unlikely, "we should simply make it clear that we are opposed to further consideration of the proposal"

Mr Dorrell also staked his campaign on the revival of Tory support in Scotland and Wales with a visit to Scottish Conservatives. He said in a speech to foreign journalists in London: "We have to show how our values and objectives are relevant to individual voters. We have to convince them the Conservative Party has listened to what it was told

on the doorstep." The Lilley camp began their campaign privately expecting not to win. But the backing of Gillian Shephard as a running mate and the support by Portillo fans who have been deprived of their candidate has given Mr Lilley's campaign more momentum. "He may not win, but it will secure his position as Shadow Chancellor," a supporter said.



Photographs: Nicola Kurtz, Tom Pilston, John Voos and Andrew Buurman

THE MEN WHO **WOULD BE KING**

Former Home Secretary, 55, right-wing loyalist under Major but campaigned inside Cabinet to rule out a single currency.
Campaign theme: I can beat Blair.
Campaign issues; opposes single currency and devolution; need to revive party in Scot-



would make him a. powerful ally for Ken but he's nice, really. Clarke, who wants Campaign themes: against

PETER LILLEY

second round,

his votes. Backers: David Faber, ex-PPS, Peter Luff, Simon Burns, Graham Mather MEP and Tim Rycroft (his Odds: best chance, to back Ken Clarke.

WILLIAM HAGUE

Former Welsh Secretary, 36, a centreright mode ampaign theme: A Fresh Start. Campaign issues: anti-single curren-cy; need to bring more young people

cy, need to bring more young people into the party.

Style: balding, fresh-faced youth.
Backers: Alan Duncan (his PR man),
Jonathan Sayeed, James Arbuthnot (campaign manager), Julie Kirkbride.
Odds: Could come through the middle

JOHN REDWOOD

Ex-Welsh Secretary and head of Thatcher's policy unity, 45, ultra-brainy right-winger with a populist touch who challenged Major's leadership in 1995. Campaign issues: opponent of single currency: seeks to restore Tory appeal on "one nation" issues.

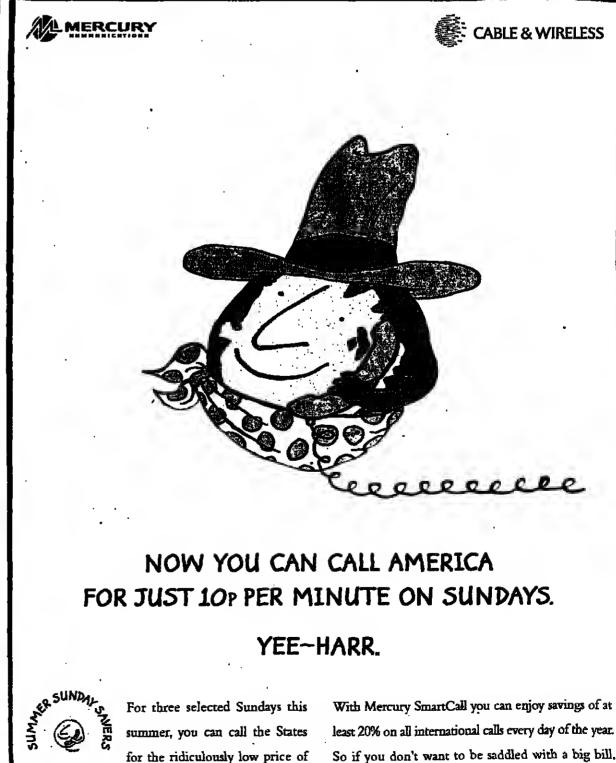
Campaign theme: I'm not a Vulcan. Campaign style: wants to put "fun" back into Conservative politics. Odds: may have to sue for a job with





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Britain's Cannes virgins bluff their way into the big time

David Lister Arts News Editor

"It's the five o'clock scram-hle," explained Harriet Bass. chief executive of the New Producers' Alliance, which has 300 members in Cannes, many of them film makers selling their movies there for the first time.

Ms Bass and her staff are hriefing the Brits on how to beat the system at the festival, and get themselves and their product noticed. First though they have to get fed and watered, hence the five o'clock scramble.

"I'm advising the Brits out here how to blag their way into the nightly parties," said Ms Bass. "It's the only way for many of them to eat and drink. when you remember a gin and tonic here can cost £8.

"They have to get those precious party tickets. The nightly screenings are always followed by a party, and it means running up and down the Croisette at 5pm and badgering

the PR offices for tickets. "And if you can't get tickets

flirt with the doorman. If you can't do that then always have the name of someone high up on a particular film and say you are related to them. But make sure that their spouse or partner is not standing directly behind you."

More than 100 Cannes virgins went to a private Cannes Survival teach-in in London for a guide to serious networking take an index box as well as normal business cards". They were particularly instructed to rehearse their pitch nightly in their hotel rooms "over and over again", and (in a style rem-iniscent of the Hollywood satirical film The Player) to be able to deliver it in three sentences.

"The whole of the world's film industry is squeezed into one street for 10 days," Harriet Bass told the nervous Cannes virgins, "You will be subjected

to glamour and seediness."
The seediness, she said in Cannes yesterday, was the huge number of liggers and "triers on" desperate to be noticed. You see people come down full of hope and optimism and you have to biag your way in. It's end up drunk in back street easy if you're a girl because you bars, after finding that no one



Players: Harriet Bass, left, and Victoria Lorkin, who are helping British film-makers work the Carnes publicity machine

wanted to huy or see their movies.'

Enjoying much greater success but rapidly running short of money is Tom Waller, 22, one of the youngest film makers in

He has produced and directed Monk Dawson, a film about a Catholic priest's affair

a model-turned-actress, Paula

Yesterday Waller was on the Croisette, the Cannes sea front, giving postcards advertising his film's screenings to likely buyers, reviewers, movers and

He was also juggling his finances so that he could escort with a parishioner, which stars Miss Hamilton in the style to

which she is accustomed, when she arrives for the round of interviews he has fixed up for her.

"I'm really here on a wing and a prayer," he said. "But I'm tixing things up so that when Paula does arrive she will at least feel like she's a minor celebrity.

The problem is the expense. I'm going to have to end up paying for every coffee and every

drink she wants to buy. And buying a drink here is extor-Alliance, says it is not just film tionate. I'm sure they've put makers selling their wares in prices up because it's the 50th festival. I'll be drinking coke and I've just remembered Paula's off Cannes.

spirits, so that will help. But I've had to borrow money off my room mate, and credit cards are proving vital."

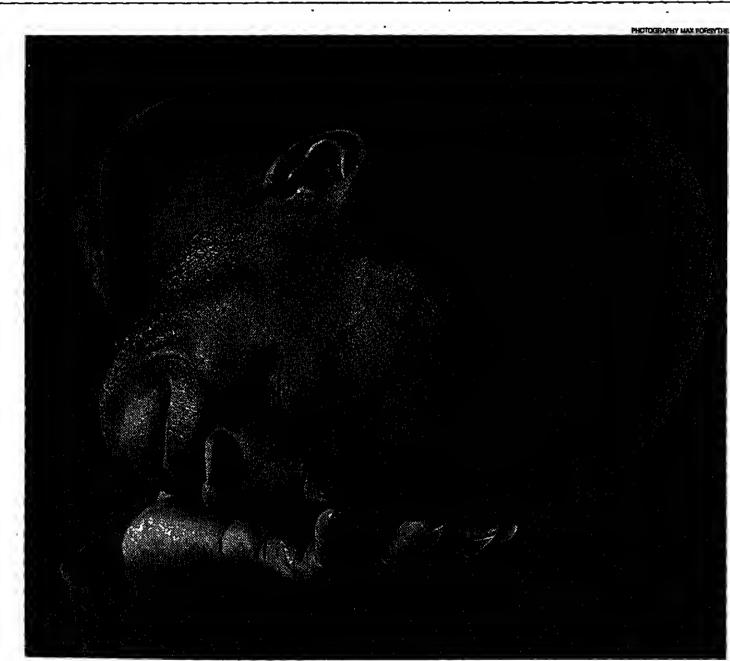
Andrew Curtis, an enter-

tainment lawyer and a co chair-man of the New Producers

"Lawyers, particularly from the big London firms, go down and are very aggressive, approaching stars and trying to get new clients."

producers, lawyers and corporate executives huy, sell, network and wheeler-deal round the clock, with mealtime providing no respite.

Indeed, a few years back, two lines scribbled on the back of a restaurant napkin hetween a lawyer and his business client became the contract for Cannes is a market where Nightmare on Elm Street.



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School reviews security after gang rape claims

Crime Correspondent

A security review has been set up at a primary school where a nine-year-old girl was allegedly gang raped by five boys aged nine and 10.

school in Shepherd's Bush, west London, on Tuesday afternoon.

Four 10-year-old hoys and one aged nine were arrested and questioned about what happened, and were released on bail to return next month while detectives make more inquiries.

The girl is being given counselling while the other 176 pupils at the school are also being offered help.

took place, have been suspended. Social services are also providing counselling for the boys and their parents.

A spokeswoman for the local have taken place in toilets at the at the building was being reviewed. She added: "It is perhaps more an issue of supervision as the alleged incident involved pupils from the

school rather than outsiders." The law has recently been changed to allow 10-year-olds to face charges of rape. Nineyear-olds and younger cannot be held criminally responsible.

The allegation follows a se-

The five boys, all pupils at the schools – most notably at Dunschool where the alleged attack blane – which have prompted new measures to make playgrounds safer. However most of the changes have been to prevent intruders entering schools.

The current debate about ine and 10. education authority, Hammer-school violence was sparked.

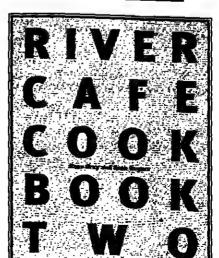
The attack is helieved to smith & Fulham, said security by the murder of the headmaster Philip Lawrence, outside his school in Maida Vale; northwest London, in 1995.

However it was not until Thomas Hamilton's massacre of 16 children and a teacher at Dunblane last March that the Cullen inquiry was convened. It recommended that every school should have CCTV, panic bnttons and personal alarms for teachers, but warned about ries of violent incidents at turning schools into fortresses.

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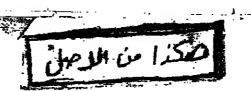
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news

Rail firm escapes £1m fine for delays

The rail company South West Trains has avoided a £1m fine after improving services last month, it was announced yes-

Run by the hus company Stagecoach, SWT attracted crit-icism for cancelling up to 39 trains a day in February and March af-

ter making 70 drivers redundant. The rail franchising director John O'Brien said yesterday he would not be fining the com-pany but warned SWT that it faced "financial penalties and further serious sanctions" if cancellations increased again. SWT runs services out of

Loodon's Waterloo station to suburbs and as far south-west as Weymouth and Exeter.
The company agreed a re-

dundancy package with drivers at the beginning of the year, but then ran into difficulties when other drivers needed to go nn route-familiarisation courses.

"Passengers oo SWT suffered an unacceptable level of cancellations in February and March and my priority was to see services restored to normal," said Mr O'Brien.

He said he would bave imposed the special £1m fine if SWT had run less than 98.5 per ce of of its services in April. But cent of trains - which Mr O'Brien described as a signif-icant improvement." But he warned that if cancellations rose again above 1.5 per cent he would threaten penalties.

The £1m fine with which SWT was threatened was above the normal penalties which rail firms face for failing to meet monthly performance targets.

It had already been fined

about £1m for its poor record

in Fehruary and Marcb. The Transport Minister, Gavin Strang, said yesterday, that he had asked for a report un "the shortcomings of the sanctions currently available to the regulators, to assist in our

review of the railway".

He added: "The SWT episode supports our belief that the weapons available to the regulators are inadequate.

Train operators across the country are on warning: this government will not tolerate inadequate performance."
The Save Our Railways

group said it was disappointed at Mr O'Brien's decision. Its coordinator, Jonathan Bray, said: The £1m fine always was a gimmick. For a while the franchise director posed as a tough regulator - now he's reverted back the company had run 99.6 per to being weak and ineffectual.



Given the bird: Peter Nicholas holds one of the aluminium gulls that was junked without his knowing at Cardiff airport Photograph: Rob Stratton

Sculpted seagulls sent back to skip

Clare Gamer

The seaguils in Peter Nicholas's sculpture wound up where they started: in a skip.

The famous sculpture of 42 seagulls, which has hung in the entrance to Cardiff Airport since 1970, began life as a sketch of seagulls circling a rubbish heap.

But a recent refurbishment of

the airport resulted in the aluminium birds being thrown

into a rubbish skip.

Mr Nicholas, 62, is asking anyone who laid their hands on a bird to bring it back to him so

he can reassemble his sculpture. The £4,000 commission for the sculpture in 1970 was the turning point in Mr Nicholas's career. "An international airport was a prize reference in a cv that was growing. I can no longer refer to it on my cv, except in a

negative way," he said. Mr Nicholas, a fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, is pressing for a charter of artists' rights: "It shouldn't happen in anyone else." He is also demanding a full explanation from the airport authorities.

s security

pe claims

A 1702 - THE INDEPENDENT

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DAILY POEM

Calais

By Glyn Maxwell

They tin-opened his head, Apparently it said CALAIS across his brain in red. Which should explain the puzzlement and pain and focus that he felt, that afternoon he smelt its fuel-and-fishy air, then mulled it over in a square

like one who little girls untasselling their hair in French and combing it to curls

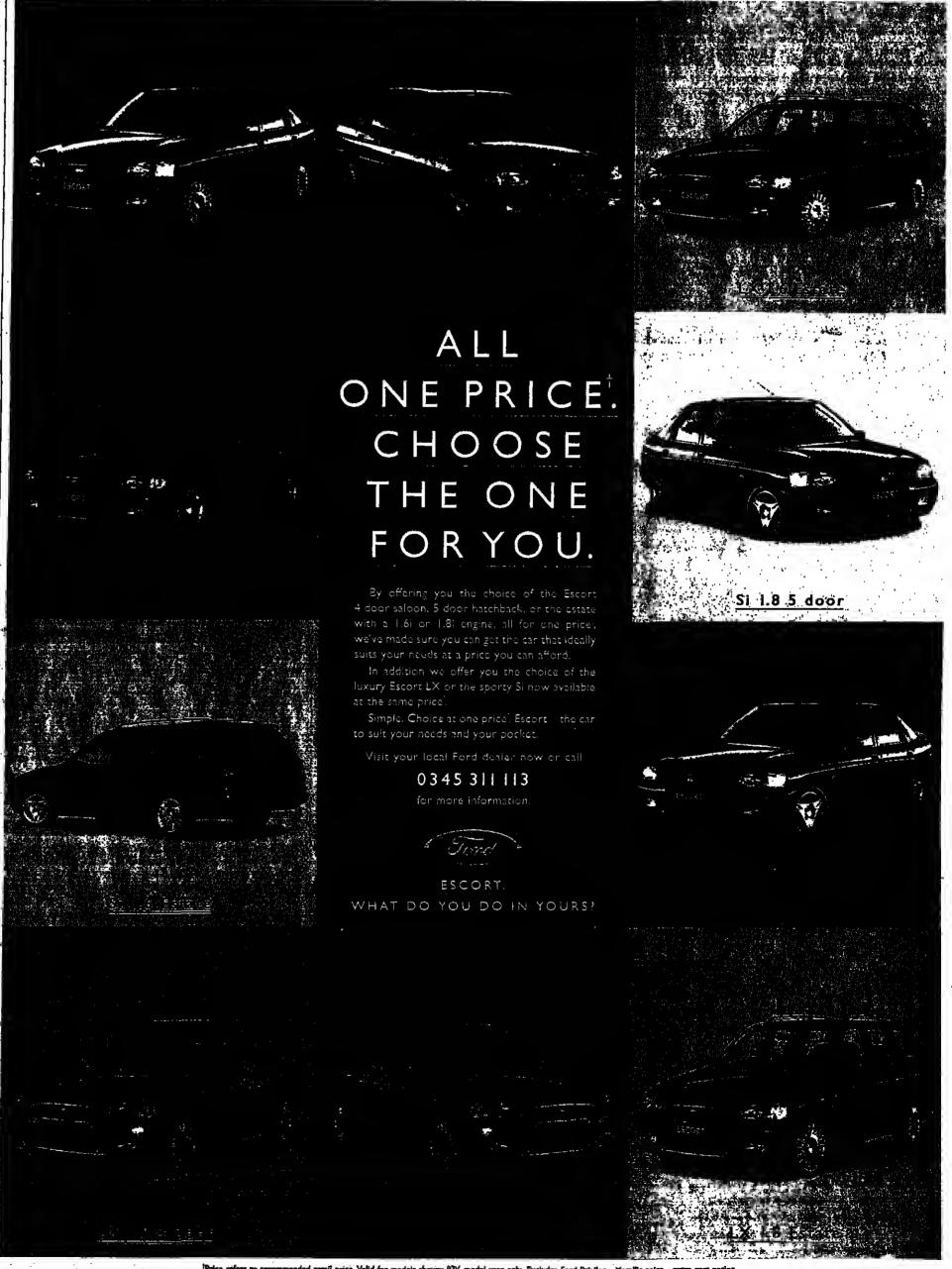
who wonders what on earth they mean and guesses and is wrong, goes pink and carries on, finds the ferry gone.

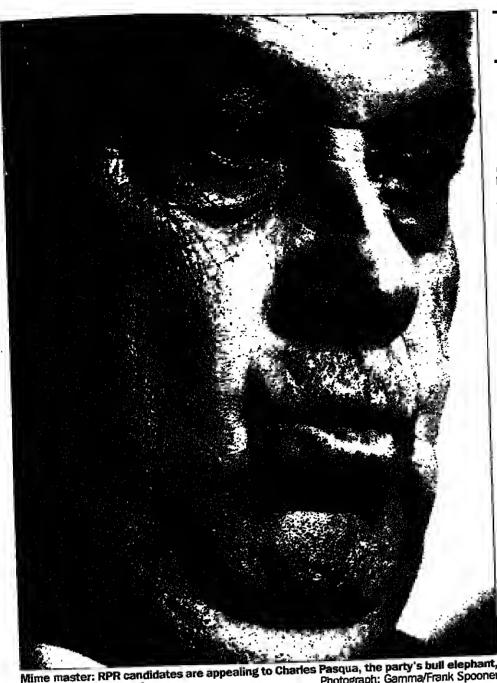
On Monday, the Concordia ensemble will premiere Cry, which combines a specially commissioned sequence of poems by Glyn Maxwell with Elizabethan and Jacobean viol music. Cry will be performed at the Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 on 12 May at 7.30 pm, then at the Hay-on-Wye and Darting-too literary festivals, on 26 May and 19 July respectively. It will also be availabe as a CD (Metronome Met CD 1020).

William the Conqueror?

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Mime master: RPR candidates are appealing to Charles Pasqua, the party's bull elephant, Photograph: Gamma/Frank Spooner

Pasqua's eloquent gestures say it all for Balladur

Charles Pasqua, the 70-year-old bull elephant of the Gaullist RPR, is answering a mischie-vous question pitched to him by a German journalist. The answer lasts a minute or so; it does not cootain a single word. Instead, Mr Pasqua's famously crumpled face goes through a gymnastic display of expressions - astonishment, puzzlemeot, uncertainty, anger, amusemeot - of which Marcel Marceau would have beeo proud. Mr Pasqua is one of the

toughest politicians in France; and also one of the funniest. "My mime is my answer," he says at last.

The question was this: would the vicious family quarrel within the Gaullist party be healed, as rumoured, by the startling come-back of Edouard Balladur as prime minister after the French parliamentary election? If I interpreted Mr Pasqua's facial grammar correctly, it would be unwise to bet too many euros on this prospect.

And yet Mr Balladur, a coovinced pro-European, and Mr Pasqua, a leading "Euro-sceptique", have both made remarkable recoveries since the French election was called two

weeks ago. In 1995. Mr Balladur ran against his party boss, Jacques Chirac, in the presidential election, He lost. Mr Pasqua, a longterm confidant and supporter of Chirac, chose to support Mr Balladur when be was riding

John Lichfield in Paris on the rehabilitation of top Gaullists called in to rescue the election campaign

bigh in the polls. Afterwards, both were east into outer political darkness by Presideot

Chirac. And yet both are now much in demand to defend the goverrument from which they were excluded. In Mr Pasqua's case. he is being besieged by requests from RPR candidates to come and waken up a campaign which is in danger of dozing off.

Is this not odd? Mr Pasqua is a cuttingly effective politician. But be is often most effective when criticising the policies and record of President Chirac and his Prime Minister, Alain

Oo this occasion, he was talking over breakfast to a small group of foreign journalists. Despite a oarrowing of the polls, and signs of alarm in the government camp, he said the centre-right parties would be safely returned to power in the two-round election on 25 May and 1 June. "The Socialists are but politically motivated ... It of-

not credible. They say they can. all at the same time, cut working hours, increase the standard of living, and reduce noemployment. Wheo the French hear that, they hurst out laugh-

ing. They are not stupid." Oo the stump, Mr Pasqua lashes the Socialists in precisely this way. Push him eveo a little, bowever, and be gives his own colourful analysis of the condition of France, and the mood of the French. It amounts to a demolition of the record. and the programme, of the government he nominally supports.

On the European single currency. Mr Pasqua is by far the most eloquent Euro-sceptic of the French centre-right (he is far more right than centre). The treaty of Maastricht was an historic error," he says, "Any attempt to accelerate towards [European] federalism is coodemned to defeat ... the single currency was not economically motivated.

fers no particular economic advantage to France. Unless Emu includes the southern EU countries, and Britain, it will be meaningless, even dangerous.

But aren't his arguments much closer to those of the Socialists (newly-converted Emusceptics) than to Mr Chirac and Mr Juppe, who have gam-bled everything oo the coming of the euro?

"I don't give a stuff what the Socialists think. I never think the same as them. Maybe, sometimes. they think the same as me."

Asked to summarise the problems facing France, Mr Pasqua says: "France is a capitalist country, without capitalists." By this, he says he means that there are too few people willing to take risks in France. The government system, and the hanking system, are stacked against enterprise and risk-taking.

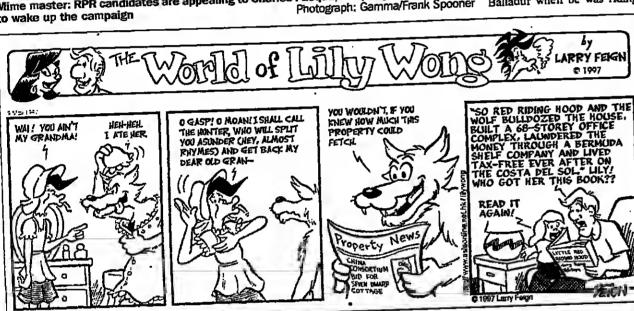
Mr Pasqua argues that the Juppé government's stateshrinking reforms have got off

on the wroog track, largely be-cause of the demands of Maastricht. It was quite right to reduce the government deficit and debt. But over a longer period. The priority should have beco to reduce taxes, and especially the crippling social charges on industry. Instead, the obsession with the Maastricht deficit-cutting timetable led the Juppé government to increase

social charges on business. So this was a historic and stupid mistake, which helped to keep unemployment bigh? Mr Pasqua goes into his Marcel Marceau routine again.

Mr Juppe remains ooe of the most detested prime ministers io the history of French opinioo polling. He is running a siogularly limp campaign. Might Mr Chirac be tempted to dump him if the polls turn worse? Mr Chirac and Mr Balladur had breakfast together on the day we had breakfast with Mr Pasqua. The polls say the French people would like to see the return

of Mr Balladur. But we know - or we think we know - Mr Pasqua's answer to that question.



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Kok serves Blair his hot potatoes

When Wim Kok greets Tony Blair in London today, the Dutchman's deeply chiselled features are sure to break into the broadest of beguiling smiles.

The Prime Minister of the Netherlends, which bolds the European Union presidency, probably knows Mr Blair better than any other European leader, and has waited anxiously, but patiently, for the Labour leader to rise to power. As recently as Fehruary the two men met to discuss Europe, talking alone and drinking tea for two hours in a small room at the hack of the Beurs, the old Amsterdam

stock exchange. Mr Blair is said to have developed respect and affection for Mr Kok, another Labour man, an enlightened integrationist and a prime architect of the Netherlands' "tiger economy."

Now, with just over five weeks to go before the Amsterdam summit, the bond between the two men will be put to a serious test. Mr Blair needs Mr Kok to guide him through the grind-ing detail of the European Union reform negotiations and to stop other member states taking advantage of his inexperience by running rings around him when the carve-up starts.

Mr Kok needs Mr Blair to make

With Amsterdam only weeks away, it is time for the two Labour PMs to harmonise strategy, writes Sarah Helm in The Hague

some key concessions so that the Amsterdam summit can go down as a European, and a Dutch, success, If anyone can hammer out a blueprint fur a compromise it is probably Wim Kok, a former trade unionist and a master of the art of consensus-huilding. Mr Kok epitomises everybody's

idea of a suber, sensible Dutchman. "He is someone you would huy a second-hand car from. Not unly that, he is someone who you know would repair the second-hand car before he sold it to you," says Elske Ter Veld, a former Dutch state secretary. Mr Kok looks trustworthy. Tall and

imposing, he give the impression that he is never in a hurry, someone who would know, instinctively, when to serve the "hot potatoes", as he teasingly calls the more explosive proposals in his hriefcasc.

ety and careful book-keeping.

Mr Kok, 58, is the son of a carpenter, who grow up in Bergambacht, a village near Rotterdam, where he learned the Calvinist virtues of sobri-

On leaving school, he won a scholarship to the elite Nijenrode business school, where he was marked out as a leader, going on to work in the trade union movement, where he shone as a negotiator.

As a small country which must make the best of limited resources, the Netherlands long ago learned that survival meant making the best of a sit-uation by striking deals with neighbours. Trade unions and employers see themselves as "social partners" and governments are always constructed uut of coalitions. Mr Kok holds together a "purple" coalition of left, right and centre parties.

Like Mr Blair, Mr Kok knows how to challenge consensus. He was large-ly responsible for breathing life into a stultified Dutch economy in the 1980s. He challenged Dutch social welfare traditions and reformed the trade unions. Agreements brokered by Mr Kok on wage moderation and welfare reform

allowed a radical restructuring of the

Dutch economy, which today marks up

an unemployment figure of only 6,6 per cent, and produces more new jobs than any other European country except Ireland, while maintaining adherence to the European Social Chapter and solid minimum standards for all social

The Dutch Prime Minister, a deeply committed European, is in many ways a man of the old integrationist school, and he has no doubt that the future lies in deeper union. Among the "hot potatoes" he will produce today will no doubt be draft texts on greater qualified majority voting and power sharing in such areas as defence and justice, which Mr Blair may find hard

Mr Kok is also determined to see the single currency launched on time in January 1999 and will no doubt take the chance to urge Mr Blair to consider joining at the start. The Dutch Prime Minister's faith in the project stems primarily from a practical belief in the absolute need for Europe to become competitive in order to produce more

jobs. People may have quelms about whether economic power should be Eurupe's prime ideal, he says. But, he ailds swiftly: There is nobody who would be against being able to carn a living a few decades from now."

Handling the British problem is only one of Mr Kok's concerns as he drives the EU presidency towards Amsterdam. He must also keep an eye on the Franco-German engine and ensure that the rights of smaller member states are not trampled on.

He knows European leaders must win back the trust of ordinary people

who feel increasingly alienated by the type of back-room corporatist decisionmaking which constitutes European The Amsterdam Treaty, orches-

trated by our "man of the people", will contain little to ease these fears. "There is more concern about where we are going now than there was there was six years ago. There is more

friction between the process of European integration and the need to pre-serve national identity," Mr Kok says. Perhaps, oo the issue of winning public support. Mr Kok may find thet the newly victorious Mr Blair has

Rajiv Gandhi widow gives **boost to Congress Party**

Sonia Gandhi, widow of the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, has joined his Congress Party, giving a boost to the scandal-scarred organisation. Since her husband's assassination in 1991. Mrs Gandhi, 50, had spurned repeated offers to enter politics. But she enrolled in late March and her membership has been finalised. Her entry was seen as galvanising Congress har also raising fresh questions about its relationship with Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's United Front coalition. Reuters -- New

Pakistan in doveish mood

Pakistan said it wanted India to discuss all issues dividing the two old foes, including the key dispute over Kashmir. Prime Ministers Nawaz Sherif of Pakistan and Inder Kumar Gujral of India meet next week in the Maldives on the fringes of a seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation summit. Reuters — Islamabad

Peace mission runs into sand

US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross held talks in Gaza and Jerusalem on reviving Israel-PLO peace negotiations hut eppeared to make little headway in his rescue mission. He met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli-PLO peace negotiations broke down two months ago after Mr Netanyahu gave the go-ahead to build houses fur Jews on a West Bank hiltop which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle

Caribbean set for Clinton

Heads of government from the Caribbean began their first day of talks in a two-day summit prior to a meeting with US President Bill Clinton scheduled for tomorrow. The meeting brought together heads uf government of the 14-member Caribbeen Community and Haiti and the vice-president of the Dominican Republic, Mr Clinton was also due to meet the leaders of Central American countries at a summit in Costa Rica.

Blazing jet fuel kills six

The pilot of a Pakistani warplane jettisoned his burning auxiliary fuel tanks over a congested neighbourhood in Karachi, killing six people. Another nine were taken to nospital with serious burns.

Former German Speaker dies

Former German parliament president Kai-Uwe von Hassel, a longtime Christian Democratie Union party member. died of a heart attack in Aachen, aged 84. Mr Hassel was governor of Schleswig-Holstein, defence minister, parliament vice-president and a member of the European

Australian PM raps race claims

Australia's Prime Minister, John Howard, rejected MP Pauline Hanson's anti-Asian and anti-Aborigine rhetoric, saying she was trying to find scapegoats for Australia's problems. He has often has been criticised for his muted response to Mrs Hanson in the past year. He said: "She is wrong when she suggests that Aboriginals are not disadvantaged. She is wrong when she says that Australia is in danger of being swamped by Asians."

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Mary Brass

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Quebec plan to break away stuns Canada

their dominance of the province

and to build momentum for yet

another referendum, the book

is an acute embarrassment. Its leaders moved yesterday to dis-

sociate themselves from the

UDI claim. Lucien Bouchard.

the current Quebec Premier

and the sovereigntist movement's figurehead, swiftly tried to limit the damage. He told re-porters that had he had knowl-

edge of the plan "I would have

disassociate myself from it". Mr Parizeau was forced to re-

sign bis leadership of the Parti

ruling party in Quebec, immediately after the 1995 vote. The

book's revelations are stunning,

ebecois, the pro-sovereigntist

David Usborne

With federal elections only three weeks away, Canada was reeling vesterday from revelations that Quebec came within an ace of making a dramatic unilateral declaration of independence two years ago that was to have relied on swift recognition from France.

In a book on the sovereigntist movement to be published on Monday, the former premier of Quebec, Jacques Parizeau, writes that had the "yes" camp riumphed in Quebec's October 1995 referendum on independence he would have made a unilateral declaration of independence within days. It would have triggered a constitutional crisis between the mainly French-speaking province of 6.5 million people, and the 19 million mainly English-speaking people of the rest of Canada.

The confession has electrified the election campaign which closes with polling on 2 June, It will also serve to ensure that the single issue that bas baunted Canadian politics for the past two decades - the future of Quebec - will once more dominate the election trail.

in particular, because he had signed an agreement with other party leaders only months before the referendum agreeing that a "yes" vote for sovereignty was to be followed by a year of negotiations with the rest of Canada for an amicable divorce. Mr Parizeau says he was se-cretly engaged in a "great game"

to engineer the fastest possible rupture of Quebec from the Canadian federation. He said it was conceived on the advice of the former French president. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, whom For leaders of the Bloc Que-

of 1995. He allegedly encouraged Mr Parizeau to believe that UDI by Quebec would be rewarded quickly by recognition of the new nation from Paris.

Mr Giscard reasoned that the nod from Paris would then be followed by a similar act of recognition from Washingtoo. But it is not clear, however, whether Mr Parizeau received any official encouragement from

the French government itself. "It was during this trip that Valery Giscard d Estaing raised a questioo of which I had not. until then, understood the signiticance," Mr Parizeau writes. "It is essential, he said in essence, right after the referendum, in the hours or days that follow that there be a solemn gesture taken by Quebec to proclaim its sovereignty. Without that, no quick recognition, that is to say in a week or ten days afterward, will be possible on

the part of a foreign country. For Jean Chretien, Canada's Liberal Prime Minister. the remarks are a gift from heaven. Speaking to supporters in Quebec City on Wednesday. he said: "We learnt today how the Bloc and their allies tried to fool Quebecers. I deeply believe that Quebecers deserve the truth and the whole truth.

Dictator's acolytes deny he is quitting

Mary Braid Kinshasa

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In the crumbling streets of the Zairean capital, Kinshasa, the men who gathered to argue over reports in the daily papers still agreed on one thing yesterday: President Mobutu Sese Seko would not be coming home today after a three-day regional summit in neighbouring Gabon.

But Lumbala Kapasa, the ailing President's spokesman, said the summit was oot the first France. Mr Mobutu would return today, resolute in his pledge not to stand down if it means handing power to the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila.

The South African Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki, at least must believe he is returning. Mr Mbeki is expected to fly to Kinshasa this afternoon to meet Mr Mobutu to try to keep talks between the dictator and the rebel leader alive, after

Yesterday a South African government source said there would a second round of talks next week, within the eightto-10 day ennsultation period announced by President Nelson Mandela, who presided over the Outenique summit.

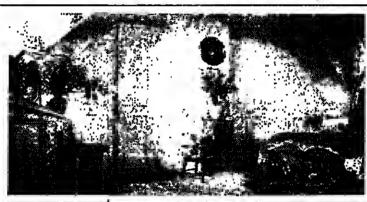
As the city waited for Mr Mobutu not to show, the confused whirl of international peace initiatives continued, with Bill Richardson, US ambasleg of a journey into exile in sador to the UN, flying to Paris to enlist French support for US peace efforts. But time is runoing out as the rebels continue their advance on Kinshasa.

Two days ago they captured Kenge, 200km east of Kinshasa, on the only passable route to the capital. But Mr Kabila's forces encountered perhans the fiercest resistance since the war began. Up to 100 Zairean soldiers and 200 civilians may bave died in the latter stages of their messy start on board the a conflict which has generally

Outeniquo, a South African avnided large lnss of life. A supply ship, last weekend. tional Committee of the Red Cross in Kinshasa said 10 local Red Cross workers were killed in the fightiog. The civilians are believed in have been killed by retreating government troops. A charity worker claimed yesterday that many local people were murdered before the

rebels even cotered town. The rebels claim to have forces within 60km of the city but neither diplomats nor local believe them. "It's the same old pattern," said Jean-Pierre, a lecturer, who was in Bukavu, eastern Zaire, in October, when the rebellion began. "They wear down the army by making them oervous, then resistance melts before they even reach lown."

No one doubts the rebels' pattern is the same. What is uncertain is how tens of thousands of Zairean troops at a dozen camps in and around Kinshasa will react to a rebel attack now there is nowhere left to run.



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Would you buy a lighter from the Great. Hell resea Poole in Bolisian.

He may make a good cushion, but **Teresa Poole** in Peking asks whether Mao is politically correct

It is 1997, Hong Kong is being returned to the mainland, and with the world spotlight on the Red", Mao room thermomehandover. Chinoiserie is in vogue. Western magazines and newspapers feature beautiful Chinese brocade clothes, reproduction Qing dynasty fur-niture, and Chinese art and haggle over such trinkets. The ceramics. And in those stylishunusual to find one familiar face staring out from somewhere on the page. Two decades after his death, Chairman Mao Tse Tung has found a new and surprising role as a design accessory.

In the West, one can huy cushion covers with the Great Helmsman's face, and Mao T-shirts. For those visiting China and looking for something a little more authentic, there are "Little Red Books", Mao propaganda posters, and other Cultural Revolution memorahilia. And for modern-day tacky

ters, Mao plates and cups, and for one's desk, a Mao penholder, and so on.

In Peking's "antique" marsame people would not, of ly designed room sets, it is not course, for one moment ever consider buying a Stalin cigarette lighter, or a Hitler room thermometer. But in the pan-theon of world tyrants whose policies resulted in the deaths of millions, Mno memorahilia manages still to be considered chic, or at least amusing.

Someone eating a sandwich off a Mao plate will probably not dwell on the 30 million Chinese who died in the famine caused by Mao's insane Great Leap Forward in the late Fifties. Arranging one's collection of Mao cushions, it is best to forget that when Mao launched the Cul-



tural Revolution in 1966, anyone who inadvertently sat on a newspaper with a Mao photograph lurking on an inside page was in danger of being thrashed to within an inch of their lives

by the Red Guards as a punishment for such disrespect. One might imagine that the present-day Chinese propaganda machine, which keeps

duction of Mao's face and calligraphy within China would frown on the use of Mao as a design motif in the West. But they have a different viewpoint. Liu Min. at the Chinese

Communist Party's Department for Research on Party Literature, is sanguine. He said: "Mike Tyson tattoos Mao's face on his arm. That expresses his understanding of Mao. "We

wish people outside China can have a wider knowledge of Mao." says Mr Liu. "It is said Tyson regards Mao as a God, he believes Mao can protect him in the ring, he worships Mao. He

understands Mao from his point of view."

Mr Liu does admit, hower with some regret that "the knowledge of Mao by foreig ers is prohably limited. In the

Yeltsin tries doublethink on Nato

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

President Boris Yeltsin is exhibiting apparent symptoms of political schizophrenia. Yesterday he said a treaty on Nato-Russian relations was "98 per cent ready", and that he might join Moscow talks in person next week to hammer out the last two per cent, Then, almost simultaneously he said that the plans for Nato's expansion are the most serious dispute between Russia and the US since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

The first comment was, admittedly, aimed at foreign reporters, the second at Russians on Russian television. But the apparently contradictory remarks may indicate a well-tried and traditional strategy - split-Nato allies. The US. represented by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, has been adamant there should be no conditions on Nato's enlargement to embrace new members - probably Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The US insists Nato must refuse to pledge that there will be no nuclear weapons or foreign troops in new members' territories - even though it has no such plans The Europeans are more inclined to compromise, understanding Russian concerns.

Since the Cuban crisis there hasn't been such a sharp issue in relations between Russia and the US, which concern Russia's interests to the degree that everyone should think about it, including Americans and Europeans," Mr Yeltsin said. "It's essential that we take part in all Nato decision-making. That is unacceptable to the US, who insist that although Russia will be able to observe Nato business, it must not have

Mr Yeltsin's remarks fol-

lowed two days of discussions between Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Nato Secretary-General Javier Solana. Mr Yeltsin said he wanted them to sort out their remaining differences at their next meeting in Moscow on 13 May so as to make it possible to sign the Nato-Russia "Charter" before the summit in Madrid on 8-9 July, at which the invitations to new members are to be issued, possibly as early as

27 May. Mr Yeltsin was laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier on the 52nd anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe. "The main thing now is to ensure Russia's part in Nato decision-making processes." he said. "We also want them not to move their forces into the new territories, including nuclear weapons."

Leading Nato countries, including the US, insist that such a pledge would give the new members a second-class status in Nato. But Nato no longer relies on short-range nuclear weapons, and has no plans or need to station foreign forces on new members' territory. All Nato membership will mean is a few liaison officers at new members' headquarters - and the Russians are likely to have liaison officers there as well.

The Russian view has been coloured by its experience of the now defunct Warsaw Pact, where the Soviet Union dominated the military structure of other member states, and had large Soviet contingents, including short- and mediumrange nuclear weapons stationed on their territory. Nato, an Alliance of sovereign states, operated and operates quite differently.

As yet, no one has devised a formula which closes the gap be-tween the Russian and the Nato

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Abuse claims heap pressure on Banana

soldiers have told police of sex- about a three-year homosexuual harassment by former President Canaan Banana, already under investigation for alleged homosexual rape, a newspaper reported yesterday...

The independent business weekly The Financial Gazette said dozens of male complainants reported to a panel of police investigators, who de-clared eight new cases of ha-rassment by Banana were believed genuine so far. The newspaper quoted an uniden-tified senior police official as saying allegations of Banana's predatory homosexuality "continue to pour in".

Officials at police headquarters did not return reporters' calls yesterday. Banana, 61, a Methodist theologian, academic and diplomat, is under police investigation for the alleged rape of a police aide when he was the nation's utular president after independence in 1980.

Police Inspector Jefta Dube. 36, was jailed for 10 years in

Harare, Zimbahwe (AP) — February for fatally shooting a Students, foothall players and colleague who taunted him colleague who taunted him al relationship he said was

forced on him by Banana.

The High Court in Harare accepted evidence that Dube was sexually harassed by Banana. Homosexuality is illegal in Zimhabwe. Police said they would bring criminal charges against Banana if investigators

gathered enough evidence. Dube's lawyers have filed a civil suit agains! Banana seeking 1.3 million Zimhabwe dol-lars (£70,000) in damages for stress-related illness caused by homosexual harassment. Banana is a professor of theology at the University of Zimhabwe in Harare.

Police want to interview university authorities who allegedly ignored complaints from male students, the Financial Gazette reports. It said football players from Banana's now-dishanded State House Tornadoes team had come forward with testimony that was

Helmsman?

Hong Qiao market, in central vestiges of totalitarian tyrants, amount to mercenary disre-Peking, most Westerners buying Mao memorabilia do so because it seems quaint or simply rather ridiculous.

MAY 1997 - THE INDEPENDE

A reproduction Mao snuff bottle can be put to various uses. a reproduction figurine of a revolutionary peasant looks good on the mantlepiece, and a giant Cultural Revolution cloth hang-ing portrait of the Great Helmsmao makes a very unusual bedspread.

The question of the death toll of Mao's rule does not seem to arise. Few tourists have studied post-1949 Chinese history, and China uself still officially reveres Mao, so the issue of possible bad taste is easily sidestepped.

Those who are steeped in Chinese contemporary history are fully aware of what they are buying. Professor David Sham-baugh, a Sinologist at George Washington University, admits to a collection of "more than 300" Mao pieces including badges, statues, posters, copies of the Little Red Book in several languages, and a Mao

"It is indeed trooic when

after their demise, assume collector's value and status as memorabilia," he said. "Such is the case with kitsch from the Mao era, and particularly the late Chairman's brainchild of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution - a mass move-ment that set back China's economy and society incalcu-lably, and cost the lives and ca-

reers of hundreds of thousands of Chinese, Peking's Chinese traders find it alt rather improbable. Duan Xiuhua, who at 42 years old is part of the generation whose education was wiped out by the Culturat Revolution, is selling off her own family's huge supply of Little Red Books in her Hong Qiao store. She also has a collection of Mao busts, in

At his stall, Chen Guowei is offering a Culturat Revolution Red" Silk Factory. Does this

fact, we don't know what the foreigners are thinking about when they buy these things," she

spect for the Chairman? "Only people who really like these will buy them. Even the government produces watches with Mao's face. That does not mean we do not respect him. That just shows we really respect him," he said.

For an unwitting foreign tourist, none of this comes cheap. Ms Duan wanted to sell me a 1977 five-volume set of Mao's extended Little Red Book. When published they would have set one back 3.9 yuan (30p); her rather optimistic openiog offer to me was 500 yuan (£38).

Yao Zhongyong was one of millions of young Chinese "sent down to the countryside" during the Cultural Revolution, and did not manage to return to Peking for 20 years. Last year sizes to suit anyone's needs. "In be put me off the whole Cultural Revolution shopping experi-ence. "Chinese people still feel very deeply about that period. And they feel uncomfortable to know that foreigners, as spec-tators, like the art and artefacts eloth portrait of Mao, made by the Hangzhou "The East is Everybody should know that it was a tragedy," be said.



Coining it: Market stalls like this one in Peking sell coins, lighters and cushions to the tourists

Photograph: Reynard Nicolas/Garnma



'Megan's law' murder puts public on trial

Mary Dejevsky Washington

An emotionally charged murder case that went to trial this week in Trenton, New Jersey, has commanded American national attention over and above that accorded even to a particulariy poignant child murder. It had made history – and law – well before the trial opened, and what is at stake is not just the life of the alleged killer, but the fate of a highly popular, but increasingly controversial, piece of legislation.

The defendant is Jesse Timendequas, 36, who is additionally charged with kidnapping and sexual assault. The seven-year old victim is known across the US only as "Megan", and the law that ber killing in-spired requires courts to inform local people wheo a convicted sex offender is released or paroled into their community.

On 29 July 1994, Megan Kanka is said to bave knocked on the front door of Timmendequas, a recently-arrived neighbour, and asked to see the puppy be bad just acquired. He invited her in. In the words of the prosecution lawyer, "Unsuspecting, trusting, seven-year old Megan walked into the de-fendant's bouse ... She would oever walk out."

Her mother said that at first she had been unconcerned about her daughter's disappearance because "this is such a nice oeighbourhood". But her illusions had been shattered when police showed ber pieces of ber daughter's clothing that bad been found in the dustbin of the house opposite - where Timmendequas lived.

He is said to have ted police to a nearby park where they found Megan's body. Several statements and a signed con-fession eventually followed. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

The subsequent revelation that Timmendequas already had two convictions for sex offences provoked fury in the quiet suhurban district of Hamilton Township, and Megan's mother led a campaign to require the authorities to notify neighbours when a convicted sex offender moves in. The campaign developed into a national crusade, and 41 states followed New Jersey's lead in passing "Megan's laws".

The exact provisions of the laws vary, but they all permit or require - oeighbours to be told when anyone who has a conviction for a sex offence settles nearby. They augment a change the law argue that sex requirement for sex offenders in all states to be registered with the police.

This week's trial has revived all the passion and outrage that was unleashed by Megan's murder. But there is also a sense in which it has come only just in time for the law's supporters. In eight states, including New Jersey, the "Megan's laws" are currently on hold: they are on the statute book but not being enforced because legal chal-lenges are pending. Released sex offenders must register with the police, but there is no obligation to make their place of residence public.

The legal challenges reflect lonk slim.

the gathering strength of a reverse campaign that was launched when the sweeping effects of the new law started to become apparent. Those joining the backlasb included not only civil liberties activists and people concerned with privacy, but also some of the very state

legislators who had helped pass the original "Megan's laws". They say they underestimated the strength of accounts ed the strength of popular anger and revulsion where sex offenders are concerned. They had not expected, they said, that requiring released sex offenders to register their addresses to neighbours would mean with rare exceptions - that the individual concerned would become an outcast, unable to settle anywhere for long, unable to start a new life even though he had served his sentence.

Some say the legislators' miscalculation only illustrated bow far officialdom was out of touch with popular opinion. One welldocumented case is that of a former offender who settled in Orange County, California. Neighbours were alerted to his presence by police leaflets giving his picture and warning: "a serious sex offender has been released into the community". People were advised to protect

the backlash included some of the legislators who had helped to pass the laws

themselves and their children. Not only did they do that, but also they photocopied the leaflets, posted them on lampposts, and organised protests. The former offender was hounded from his first new neighbourhood by public demonstrations, placards and graffiti. He received death threats and lost his job. He found a new flat, but the manager terminated his lease when his identity was reported.

In one district of Georgia, names were publicised in pubtic libraries - and then broad-east on local radio. New Mexico is proposing to post the names and social security numbers of offenders on the Internet.

Some of those now trying to offenders will simply choose to flout the law on registration if they are made outcasts. Others say that more general warnings could be issued in the neighbourhood, without pictures or addresses. Some of the "Megan's laws" anyway require notification only in the case of "high-risk"offenders.

In time, the rights of children to protection and the constitutional rights of individuals to privacy are likely to be weighed against each other in court. Until then, the balance will remain uncertain, but the odds that Jesse Timmendequas will ever benefit from a revised law

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EXPLORER

Find yourself.

Prince Napoleon

On every 5 May, the anniversary of Napoleon's death on St Helena in 1821, it is customary for the Bonaparte family, their friends and supporters, to lay a wreath on Napoleon's tomb in the invalides. His memory is celchrated in a mass. But on 5 May last they were in mourning for the head of their family. Louis Bonaparte, Prince Napoleon. gium. Their son, Louis, was born in Brussels in 1914. The Third Republic had pro-His Imperial Highness, as be was called, had died in Switzer-

land two days previously, Louis Bonaparte was the great-grandson of Prince Jerome, King of Westphalia from 1807 to 1813, the youngest brother of the Emperor, who lived long enough to become Governor of the invalides during the Second Empire. He first married an American who

took the name of Elizabeth He was educated at Louvain Patterson Bonaparte, but this marriage was dissolved on the Emperor's orders. He then married Catherine of Württemberg. His grandson, Victor Napoleon, when approaching the age of 50, married Princess Clementine, the youngest daughter of Leopold II of Bci-

tected itself against royalists and Bonapartists by passing a law in 1886 which banned members of any family that had ruled over France from residing in the country. Hence the Prince spent his life in Belgium and Switzerland, and as a small boy passing some time with the aged Empress Eugénie in England. and Lausanne.

When war broke out in 1939. he was living in Switzerland and he wrote to Edouard Daladier. then French Prime Minister. volunteering to serve in the French army. His offer was turned down, but be was determined to fight and, adopting the name of Louis Blanchard, he joined the French Foreign Legion. He served in North Africa but, after the armistice, he was demobilised in 1941.

He returned to Switzerland but very quickly made contact with the French resistance. He worked with them in France and with their help he tried to cross the Pyrenees in December 1942. His aim was to proceed to Spain and from there to join de

Gaulle in London, but he was ar-rested by the Germans. He spent some time in different prisons, including Fresnes. Eventually the Germans released him. and although he was under surveillance and confined to a limited area, he succeeded in joining the Organisation de Résistance de l'Armée. The ORA, as it was called,

was a part of the resistance which had been built from those regular soldiers who had refused to accept the defeat of 1940 as definitive. The Prince, calling himself Louis (and sometimes Lucien) Monnier was given the rank of sergeant and served in the department of Lindre. He was part of a hrigade, known as the Charles Martel Brigade, which distinguished itself. They

were under frequent attack from the Germans and they had some difficulty in preserving their secret identity. On one occasion they were loudly greeled in a case by an enthusiastic young boy as "l'armée clandestine".

After the Allies landed in Normandy, this unit was busily engaged in preventing the Germans from moving reinforcements northwards and westwards. It has been esti-mated that they killed or wounded some 2.500 German troops. But their own casualues were heavy. Another member of the Bonapartist family serving with them. Lieutenant Joachim Murat de Pontecorvo. was killed on 20 July 1944. And Prince Napoleon was badly wounded on 28 August, the

only one of a seven-man patrol to escape alive. Subsequently he was transferred to the Alpine Division with the rank of Lieutenant, using the more aristocratic psendonym of Louis de Montfort. He was decorated for his bravery.
After 1945, he continued to

live in Switzerland hut be also lived in Paris (in the rue de Presbourg), both he and the authorities choosing to ignore that this was illegal until 1950, when the 1886 law was repealed. He spent his time pursuing his business interests in French and Belgian Africa, both before and after independence. He was prominent in motor-racing. being President of the Association Sporthe de l'Autochib de France, and in winter sports.

His main concern was to preserve the Bonapartist herstage. In this he was a proud and exacting man, as anyone at-tending the ceremony for the Prince Impérial, who died fight-ing with the British army in the Zulu war in 1879, could witness. Before 1939, with the historian Louis Hanoteaux be had published a volume of correspondence received by Napoleon. He was a powerful figure in the various Napoleonic

The project of having the re-mains of Napoleon 111, the Empress Eugenie and the Prince Impérial, hrought back to France from the abbey in Farnborough, was one that was very dear to him. But where should they go? What role in the

ceremony would the President of the Republic play? These re-main difficult questions. But he was always proud of the fact that, when Hitler personally ordered the remains of Napoleon's son, the Duc de Reichstadt, to be returned to Paris in December 1940 and when this gesture was wel-comed by Marshal Pétain, he. the Prince, was serving in the French army in North Africa.

Douglas Johnson

Where !

freedon

voted in

Louis Jérome Victor-Emmanuel Leopold Marie Bonapara, wartime resister and husinessman: born Brussels 23 January 1914; succecded 1926 as Prince Napoleon; married 1949 Alix de Foresa (two sons, two daughters); died Prangins, Switzerland 3 May 1997.

Sir Michael Shersby

When Michael Shersby first won Uxbridge for the Conservative Party in a by-election in 1972 (after the death of the redouhtable journalist MP Charles Curran) it was thought to be surprising: for the seat was marginal. Over the years, however - such was his skill as a constituency memher, such his charm and assiduity, that, with-out any significant belp from the Boundary Commissioners, be had by 1989 converted a Labour marginal into a Conservative seat where he had a majority of 15,970. In the 1992 general election Shersby bad a majority of more than 13,000. Last week however, in the great Labour landslide of 1 May, Uxbridge hecame marginal again, albeit Tory marginal: Sbersby's majority was only 724.

Over the years, therefore, Shersby's achievement, viewed in constituency terms, was Herculcan. Nevertheless he found time effectively to pursue a multitude of other interests. He enjoyed ministerial office only briefly. He was on the socalled payroll vote as unpaid Parliamentary Private Secretary to Michael Hesletine in January 1974; and that was all.

His friends thought in 1975 that he would receive some

preferment from Margaret He was on the right wing uf his Thatcher; but be had declined party; but his courtly and kindto support her leadership bid against Edward Heath, and she saw no need to placate the minnows of politics when she felt obliged, for the moment at any rate, to placate the sharks mainly those who had opposed

her in the leadership election. This did not at all bother Shersby. He was one of those politicians who enjuyed campaigning on specific issues, and supporting specific causes. He was horn in 1933 in Middlesex. and educated at the John Lyon School in Harrow: the thought of going to university never entered either his head, nor the head of his father. He earned a living in the sugar trade with Tate and Lyle; and the sugar industry was a besetting concern

of his to the end of his life. He caught the political bug in early manbood. He was elected to Paddington Borougb Council in 1959, and to Westminster City Council in 1964: be served as Deputy Mayor of Westminster from 1967 to 1968. Thus, as with many other Conservative MPs of his modest middle-class background, his roots were in local government.

ly manner ensured that he never attracted the bitter bostility which many of those who thought like him did. Even when he proposed the most stringent of immigration controls - except for "kith and kin" - there was no such uproar which, say,

Enoch Powell attracted. He was a superh committee man, and sat on many backbench committees, and was on the Speaker's panel. He became involved in the affairs of the Falkland Islands, and was a doughty champion of the cause of the islanders, becuming chairman of the all-party British-Falklands group in 1982, which post he beld until bis

Moreover, he had a passionate interest in the countryside, and formed a close alliance which developed into a deep friendship - with that most devoted of Tory conservationists. Sir Patrick Cormack. He successfully put through Parliament a remarkable muster of Private Members' Bills on such diverse subjects as gaming (to increase prize money available at bingo), park regulations and Once in the House of Com-mons, Shersby spread bis wings. other committees which he 1997.

served with devotion, hut one that might be mentioned is his service on the all-party Esperanto group, between 1976 and 1977.

Michael Shersby was a man of insatiable curiosity, extrava-gant energy, and boundless dedication. He will be mourned across the political spectrum.

Patrick Cosgrave Julian Michael Shersby, politician: born Ickenham, Middlesex 17 February 1933; Secretary, Association of Specialised Film Producers 1958-62: member, Paddington Borough Council 1959-64, Westminster City Council 1964-71; director, Sugar Burcau (British Sugar Bureau) 1966-67. director-general 1977-88, parliamentary adviser 1988-95; Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster 1967-68; MP (Conservative) for Uxbridge 1972-97; PPS ta Minister of Aerospace and Shipping, DTI 1974; Treasurer, World Sugar Research Organisation 1982-97: member, Speaker's Panel of Chairmen, House of Commons 1983-97, Public Accounts Committee 1983-97; parliamentary adviser, Police Federation 1989-97; Kt 1995; married 1958 Barbara Barrow (one son, one daughter): died London 8 May



Shersby campaigning with his wife, Barbara, at the Uxbridge by-election in 1972. He retained the seat for the Conservatives last week

Finn Høffding

Of the trio of grand old men of Danish music, only Hermann D. Koppel is left: Vagn Holmboe died last September and now Holmboe's teacher, Finn Hoffding, bas gone 100, 19 days after his 98th birthday. Hoffding's compositions seem - unjustifiahly - to have fallen from current favour, although his selfless activity on behalf uf music education will ensure that his contribution to music-making in Denmark lives on.

Hoffding was born in Copen-bagen in 1899, took lessons on the violin and organ, and studied with the legendary scholar and contrapuntist Knut Jeppe-sen between 1918 and 1921 hefore travelling to Vienna to study with Joseph Marx - both men composers and musicologists, a double profile that left its mark on Høffding's own career.

Hoffding was already composing: the first work in Svend Bruhns' and Dan Fog's 1969 catalogue of his work is a Romance

Murray Kempton, who is now

dead but always seemed mythi-

cal, was a gentle and learned man

who believed, like his early em-ployer H.L. Mencken, that the

purpose of a newspaper was to

comfort the afflicted and afflict

the comfortable, writes Rhoda

Koenig [further to the obituary

I can't say how Murray be-

haved tete-a-tete with the great



Hoffding: humanist message Photograph: Lebrecht Collection

for violin and strings from 1918. The first of his four symphonies. the Sinfonia Impetuosa, was completed five years later, with No 2, Il Canto de Liberato, written the following year, No 3 in 1928, and the Sinfonia Concertante, No 4, in 1934. Thereafter Hoffding abandoned the sym-

and powerful, but he was un-

failingly courteous and charm-

ing to the most junior

employees of his newspaper.

There was no one who did not

adore him, though at times he

made his bosses rather testy.

Dorothy Schiff, the publisher of

the New York Post (who, before

Rupert Murdoch took it over.

had pretty well run it into the

ground) ordered Murray to

develop his orchestral thoughts is generally traditional in exfour, composed between 1939 and 1953; No 2, Det er ganske vist ("It Is Perfectly True", 1940, after Hans Christian Andersen), is perhaps his best-known work. and is the only one of his 18 orchestral pieces currently available on CD. There are also two "normal" operas: Kajserens nye klæder ("The Emperor's Clothes", again after Andersen, 1926). Kilderejsen ("The Healing Spring", after Holberg, 1931), and a third, choral, one, Pasteur (1935), intended for performance in schools.

Hoffding's style owes something to the muscularity of Carl Nielsen, the greatest musical Dane of them all, but his lean counterpoint and thinner texlures are tempered by an acquaintance with trends in contemporary neo-classicism and honed by a fine sense of phony as a form, preferring to irony. But, although his music of Danish school singing.

Murray Kempton

stop answering his mail after an irate reader sent her Murray's

I have no respect for the views

of a man who reads this news-

paper, considering that, if he

saved his money for a week, he

could buy a paperback copy of

quiet sort of Damon Runyon

figure; one could imagine him,

Murray Kempton was the

Proust. Yours sincerely.'

reply. It read, "Dear Mr -

for chorus, plano and three saxophones, flirts with jazz, and as late as 1965, in his Fantasia Concertante, he was experimenting with the sort of sounds to be found in mainstream European modernism - the list of percussion that work requires might as easily come from a score of Boulez. As Hoffding's concert music

emerged, so too did his educational works. An encounter with an amateur cantata of Hindemith's in Frankfurt in 1927 sparked the idea of a systematic approach to the teaching of music in Denmark, and brought about the first of a steady stream of works for amateurs, often for chorus, as well as easy pieces for young play-ers: Hoffding's choral music, which often has a deeply humanist message, is now a staple

at the end of the bar, dispens-

ing bitter truths with the re-

flective, rueful air of the

Episcopal hishop he felt he

should have been. When Mur-

ray went through one of his pe-

riodic depressions, Murdoch,

who is brutal but not insensitive,

quietly reassigned his top crime

reporter to tail him, just in

case. (Murdoch did not win any

hearts for his solicitude, as peo-

1931 until 1955, for the last years as its director. His pupils read like a roll-call of the great and good in Danish music, from Vagn Holmboe to Per Norgard, who takes Holmboe's place as the most noteworthy living Danish composer.

By the time of his death his advanced age had kept the frail Hoffding from the forefront of musical life in Denmark, and his music has slipped from sight. Thorough exploration of his large output (Bruhns' and Fog's catalogue records 110 works up till 1969) would reveal a powerful, witty, thoughtful - and profoundly human - composer.

Martin Anderson

Finn Hoffding, composer: born Copenhagen 10 March 1899; married Aslaut Munck (died 1996) died Copenhagen 29 March 1997.

ple said it was working for him

that made Murray want to kill

himself.) In any case, Murray

survived. He once riveted a

dinner table that had been dis-

cussing Sylvia Plath with a

lengthy recital of his failures in

suicide. "I've tried gas - that's no good. The pills didn't work.

He sounded quite cheerful

Then there was the time . . .

about it, did Murray.

died a few months later.

testator.

Hugh Faulkner

Hoffding was also a ren- | The charitable sector is a rich in a series of "Symphonic Fan-tasias", of which there are also

Das Eisenbahngleichnis of 1934.

Which as a pacifist caused him mirrored by anything in the non-problems in 1940, were central to the problems of 1954.

Which as a pacifist caused him mirrored by anything in the non-problems in 1940, were central to the problems in 1940, Anglo-Saxon world. Hugh Faulkner was central to the tradition.

In particular, he put on the map older people, asthma, and ME. His long involvement with Help the Aged (of which be was the founder, and director from 1961 to 1983) brought concern about older people to the fore.

Unconcerned with official favour, on the White Paper in 1980 be penned the rather percipient comment: "Growing Older' is a complacent document . . . there is no hope for

any immediate improvement for today's elderly." But he was not an armchair critic and his considerable energies went into running a very vigorous voluntary organisation which became under his direction one of the top ten" fund-raising charities with an annual income of £10m. His belief was that older prople should be part of society, not marginalised in special institutions, and the work of Help the Aged put great emphasis on bousing, transport and

environmental services. Hugh Faulkner was born into modest family in Leicestershire who could not afford to support his passion for music. He eventually qualified instead as a chartered secretary and went into administration and business. working from 1936-46 in the educational administration of the City of Leicester and then with

His firmly held moral views. to his life and he was always committed to his country and its values. The 1940s and 1950s saw him working increasingly with a group of Christian businessmen who took the view that a successful business should develop profits which could be applied to charitable purposes. Within this context, he became the Honorary Director of Voluntary and Christian Service in

1954, and from this base other charitable interests developed. Not a man for retirement, at the age of 67 Faulkner hecame Director of the Asthma Research Council. He boosted its income five-fold, and built up the local network to over 150 branches. Asthma sufferers have enjoyed scant sympathy and tolerance in the past, but his work has contributed to a better public understanding, and a

Mervyn Kohler Hugh Branston Faulkner, charity administrator: born Lutterworth, Leicestershire 8 June 1916; Director, Help the Aged 1961-83; OBE 1980; Director, Asthma Research Council and Asthma Society 1983-88; Honorary Director, Persistent Virus Disease Research Foundation 1992-97; married 1954 Anne Carlton Milner (one son, one daughter); died 6 April 1997.

Hugh Faulkner's wife. Anne.

was associated with him in all his

crusades, and it was through her

suffering from Myalgic En-

cephalomyelitis (ME) that both

of them took on this cause.

founding the Persistent Virus

Disease Research Association in

1992 to support research into

ME. Faulkner refused to accept

the initial view that ME suffer-

ers were somehow malingerers.

ME is now recognised as a

Faulkner's Christian com-

mitment was a vital part of his

life. Some of his colleagues

might have felt that he was a

workaholic - others that he

was a relentless taskmaster.

But he demanded nothing of

others that be did not perform

himself. If the centrepiece of his

life was his work and identifi-

cation with older people, his as-

piration to secure "a more

abundant life for older people"

is one to which we can all sub-

scribe. It is probably a more rel-

evant vision today than when he

formulated that view.

legitimate medical condition.

Church Brothers estate agents. Faulkner: tasker

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

THOMAS: On 15 April, to Barbara (nee McGrory) and Huw, a daughter, Sallie Jay, a sister for Ciara. DEATHS

McGLASHAN: Dr Alan Fleming, MC, Croix de Guerre (with Palm), died peacefully at home on 6 May, in his 99th year. Greatly beloved husband of Sasha, Funeral at the London Scottish Chapet of St Columba, Port Street, London SWI (Lennox Gurdens Entrance), at 10.45am on Wednesday 14 May. Committal at Putney Vale, 12.15pm. Flowers to Putney Vale, 12.15pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen, attriumparied by The Duke of Ellebury its Mid Clause reas The Prince of bules, or by The Queen, holds an avestime at Backingham P S Pairon, the Remarks To are severe, holds an amendment of Wales, or a severe, holds an amendment of Busingsian as Pairious, the Burnatage on Trans, attends or record of the trans, at Quart West, Trailined Paris, M. ter, and, as President, the Prince's Trans, attends the Contract of the Contract force, and the Paris of bert, attends to Grand William Contract the Market of bert, attends of Grand William Market and of the Reviral State and Chartest Toron, from an and of the Reviral State and Chartest Toron, from word, Transec, the Duke or I bulinhai giv Annual a a concert and dismost as the Rowal Market College, it with, Lytting \$51.00.

Changing of the Guard
The Henchald Laula Manual Resident Install the
Queen's Life Guard Bloom Counts, 11 and 18 Battalon

Birthdays

Mr Richard Adams, author, 77; Mr Alan Bennett, actor and playwright.
63; Miss Candice Bergen, actress, 51;
The Right Rev Cyril Bowles, assistant Bishop, diocese of Gloucester,
81; Miss Shella Burrell, actress, 75;
Alan Carlotte Control of Con Mr Vincent Cable MP, 54; Mr John Mr Vincent Cable MP. 54; Mr John Cook, consultant surgeon, 57; Lord Cooke of Thorndon, former president, New Zealand Court of Appeal, 71; Mr Terry Downes, boxer, 61; Mr Albert Finney, actor and director, 61; Mr Carlo Maria Giulini, conductor, 83; Dr Douglas Guest, organist, 81; Sir Joshua Hassan QC, former chief minister of Gibraltar, 82; Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes, 84; Sir Geoffrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 59; Miss Glenda offrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 59: Miss Glenda Jackson MP. 61; Mr Billy Joel, singer, 48: Mr Mathlew Kelly, brondcaster, 47: Ms Ruth Kelly MP. 29: Sir Francis Kennedy, Jormer diplomat. 71: General Sir Peter Leng, former Master-General of the Ordnance, 72: Lord Lloyd of Berwick, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 68: Mr Gavin Lyall, author, 65: Sir John McDermott, a Lord Justice of Anneal mott, a Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern treland, 70, Miss Geraldine McEwan, actress, 65; Professor Alistair MacFarlanc, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Herioi-Wan University, 66: Mr Brian McMasler, Director, Edinburgh Festival, 54; Sir Philip Mansfield, former diplo-

mar, 7t; Dr Roy Massey, organist and

Master of the Choristers, Hereford Cathedral, 63; Mr Bill Olner MP, 55; Sir David Plastow, chairman, Med-ical Research Conneil, 65; Mr Patrick Ryccart, actor, 45; Mr Malcolm Savidge MP, 51; Miss Joan Sims, ac-tress, 67; Admiral Sir Victor Smith, former chairman, Australian Chiefs of Staff Committee, 84; Ms Claire ard MP, 25; Sir Nicholas

High Court judge, 52. Anniversaries

Births: James Matthew Barrie, novelist and playwright, 1860. Deaths: Jo-hann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller, poet and playwright, 1805.
On this day: a fire broke out at the
Empire Theatre, Edinburgh, killing
the Great Lafayette, illusionist, nine of his company, a lion and a horse, 1911. Today is the Feast Day of Si Beatus of Lungern, S1 Beatus of Vendome, S1 Geronius of Cervia and St Pachomius. Today is also the first day of the Muslim year AH 1418.

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be

held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.72pm. Enited Synapogeness 0831-342 8900, Pederation of Synapogenet 0831-342 3243. Union of Libertal and Programme Synapogenes 0871-360 1643. Referre Sen-optogeness of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731, Synapols and Portrageness Acc

Mutual wills are not binding without clear agreement Goodchild v Goodchild: Court of

Appeal (Lord Justice Legentt. Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Phillips) 2 May 1997 In the absence of evidence of a

clear agreement between testaturs to be huund aut tu change their intentions after the death of the first testator, wills made simultaneously and in similar terms were not mutual wills. The survivor was accordingly entitled to dispose nf his estate as he wished.

The Court of Appeal dis-missed the defendant's appeal against the award of £185,000 to the first plaintiff under the Inheritance Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975, and the plaintiffs' cross-appeal against the judge's finding that the wills of the first plaintiff's deceased parents were not mutual wills binding upon his father after his mother's death. The first plaintiff was the son of the testator and his first wife. They made simultaneous wills in LAW REPORT 9 May 1997

similar form in favour of the first must be a contract at law; sec plaintiff. The first wife died in April 1991, and in August 1992 In re Dale [1994] Ch 31. A key feature of mutual wills the testator married again, and was the irrevocability of the mumade a new will in favour of his tual intentions. Not only must second wife, the defendant. He they be binding when made, but

J.H.G. Sunnocks (Poole & Co. Yewil) laken, and so must be bound, for the defendant; Jerem; Gordon (Parnot to change their intentions after the death of the first ter Dodson. Yeovil) for the plaintiffs. Lord Justice Leggatt said that it had been submitted for the The judge had declined to inplaintiff that it was sufficient for wills to be mutual to show a

fer any agreement between the testators in the present case which would prevent the survivor from interfering with the common understanding hetween the two testators at the succession. That was a conclutime of the wills. If neither lession to which he was entitled tator had given notice to the to come on the evidence. The plaintiffs' appeal would, other that they had withdrawn from the understanding, the accordingly, be dismissed. obligation became a legal one On the cross-appeal it had upon the death of the first

been argued that no provision should have been made for the However, for the doctrine of first plaintiff under the 1975 Act. mutual wills to apply, there

the judgment below showed confusion between the princi-

ples of family provision and those relating to mutual wills. His Lordship disagreed fun-damentally. When the court the testators must have underfound that the testator had been guilty in all the circumstances of a hreach of moral ohligation owed by a father to his child, leaving the child in straitened financial circumstances, the court must ensure that adequate provision was made for the child out of the

estate, having regard to his need for maintenance and support: see Bosch v Perpenual Trustee Co [1938] AC 463. There was, in the present case, the plainest possible basis for concluding that, the

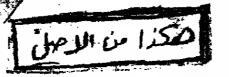
wife's understanding of the effeet of the will she had made was such as to impose upon the It had been further argued that husband a moral obligation,

reasonable financial provision was established, to devote to him so much of her estate as would have come to him had

there been mutual wills. The appraisal of all the circumstances was essentially for the trial judge. He had properly directed himself, and had not been shown to have erred in principle, or even to bave reached a conclusion that was surprising or untoward. The sum awarded to the first plain-

tiff could not be challenged. His Lordship reiterated the comments in In re Coventry [1980] 1 Ch 461 about the undesirability of dissipating estates of modest size by pursuing appeals against sensible judgments at first instance. The judgment in the present case was not only sensible: it was unimpeachable. The appeal and the cross-appeal would be

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



· A lot of promise, Mr Blair, but how to deliver?

top three priorities, the five

Law of Unintended Consequences. As new ministers start to translate election new ministers start to translate election pledges, the seven pillars of the decent society, the 10-point contract with the people and the 21 steps to the 21st century, the Chinese-style rhetoric of Labour's election campaign has finally met the reality of law-making.

perb colour

amily and

"Enough of talking - it is time now to do," Tony Blair said as he entered Downing Street. And yesterday the hard decisions about the Bills to be put through parliament in the next year and a half had to be taken. The first casualty, as we reported yesterday, was the Freedom of Information Bill, its postponement announced by the Controller of Information himself, Peter Mandelson. before the Cahinet met to confirm it. The Independent passionately supports this simple measure, and believes the argument for further consultation is specious. Still, there is little purpose served by protesting, since it is also true that other measures are indeed more pressing.

On the whole, the list of more than 20 Bills for next week's Queen's Speech represents a substantial, welcome and deliverable change of direction for the country. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet begin their administration surprisingly well prepared, in the light of the widespread perception that they were so focused on winning the election that they simply intended to busk it in the first 100 days. However, one statute the new government will not be able to repeal is the

pledges into the law of the land, they will find that nothing is ever as simple as it

seemed on the hustings.

Take education, the "passion" and top
three priorities of Mr Blair's government. Phasing out the assisted places scheme is straightforward and right, but the savings to the public purse are relatively minor, while the mechanics of limiting infants' class sizes are complex. How will the extra funding for smaller classes be distributed to largely self-governing schools? How will the limit of 30 pupils per class at ages five, six and seven he enforced? What if it drains resources from parts of the education budget where need is even more desperate? If civil servants ask these questions they will not be trying to obstruct the Labour government, but drawing attention to pos-sible unplanned effects of manifesto

It is the same with the National Health Service, subject of another Bill. Getting rid of some of the unnecessary paperwork of the internal market is unlikely to be easy, or to produce savings of £100m a year. Meanwhile, the eve-catching promises on waiting lists for cancer treatment, including abolishing waits altogether for breast cancer, may again have the unintended consequence of diverting resources from areas of even greater need.

It is the same again with the plan to



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take a quarter-of-a-million people off the dole and into, well, not work as such, but schemes. Green schemes. Volunteer schemes. Training schemes. During the election campaign there was much cloudiness about the shortage of young unemployed to go on these schemes, and about how far the long-term unemployed

and lone mothers would be part of them. The welfare-to-work programme is perhaps the key to the new programme, because its grander ambitions have been expressed in terms of tackling the £100bn-a-year "welfare hudget", which absorbs one-third of all public spending. This is the golden goose that will provide

the resources for a long-term increase in spending on education.

But how? It is a large question, and so far Mr Blair's answer to it appears to be: Frank Field. Now, Mr Field is a man to be held in high respect and admiration; hut he, too, suffers not a little from the politician's conventional dislocation between rhetoric and reality. Despite his reputation as a freethinker and radical moralist, he is also a soundbite man. They are good soundhites, about the need to end dependency, about the incentive to fraud in the benefit system, ahout reform of pensions. But, last October, he unveiled a blueprint for a

up to the advance billing. In effect, he proposed that those on more than average earnings of £18,000 a year should pay more in compulsory contributions to a state-guaranteed pension fund. He and Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, will have to come up with a great deal better than this, and that will

be more difficult in government than out. Without some kind of breakthrough in this area, Labour's programme runs the risk of being more prosaic and mod-est than Mr Blair would really like. Again, we should not protest too much. Many of the measures in the Queen's Speech will make an important and immediate difference to people's lives unintended consequences or no. The national minimum wage. Halving the five-month wait for sentencing persistent voung offenders. The right to trade union recognition. A parliament for Scotland, assembly for Wales, open funding for political parties, an end to hereditary peers and the beginning of an independent Bank of England.

But the size of last week's landslide cannot help but raise expectations. There is a buzz in the air, a feeling that the country did not expect the outcome, but nevertheless feels pleased with what it has done. That is partly because Mr Blair has wisely avoided any tint of triumphalism, and talked of service and humility instead. But, alongside his cautious injunction not to "promise what we QC, for getting on with her job.

pensions revolution which failed to live cannot deliver", he has also pledged to deliver "the most radical overhaul of our education system since World War Two". Which is it to be? The rhetoric of restraint, but radicalism in action? We must hope so. We must hope that Mr Blair maintains a quietly confident demeanour that does not promise too much, and delivers somewhat more. If he succeeds, he has every prospect of carrying the country with him through the inevitable mistakes and reverses of the next year or two.

Cherie's on the case

Yourt reporting is not what it used to be. A packed press bench seemed to have some difficulty yesterday following the details of an Appeal Court case. St Helens borough council wants to strike out an industrial tribunal ruling that the terms of employment at a special school had been changed unlawfully when it was taken over from the county council. "The consequences of the decision are nothing short of horrendous," said counsel for St Helens. But did the assembled backs report her argument? They did not. They were more interested in describing what she was wearing and what she ate for lunch. Congratulations to Cherie Booth

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Where is the freedom we voted for?

Sir: It is complete nonsense to suggest that a Freedom of Information Bill could not be ready in time for the first session of the new Parliament. If Gordon Brown believes that legislation could be ready to change the status of the Bank of England, an event that, unlike the Freedom of Information Act, has not, as far as the public is aware, been many years in the preparation, then so could this

Many of us, in the absence of proposed policies and measures, would like to feel that the new government is intending to be true to the spirit of its pre-election utterances. These include those of Tony Blair, quoted by Maurice Frankel in his admirable letter (8 May). We need a change of culture,

and we need some real democracy. What have we seen in the first week of the new government? Quite the opposite. The clear message that the Parliamentary party will be controlled from the centre, and that one of the most important moves towards democracy is to be deferred. Is this really what the electorate, in particular the hard-working members of local constituency parties, really voted for? JULIET SOLOMON London N10

Sir: Maurice Frankel (letter, 8 May) is quite right to draw attention to the need for a commitment in the Queen's Speech to legislation which clearly signals a change in the way politics is conducted in this country.

There is an alternative starting point to a Freedom of Information Act however. The Government could give a commitment to incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights. This international human rights treaty, written by British civil servants and ratified 40 years ago by the British government but never brought into British law, would protect many other rights in addition to the right to know. Article 10 of the Convention gives us "the right to receive and impart information and ideas without interference with public authority", and is backed by a substantial body of case law in favour of freedom of information. But the ECHR also gives us the right to privacy, to a fair trial, freedom to practise one's religion, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

It is not a perfect document, and we would require at a later stage a specific Freedom of Information Act, along with a Bill of Rights. But it would provide us with basic protection of our rights, a starting point from which to develop future legislation - and a standard against which to measure laws passed by our new government. Commitment to incorporating the Convention would be a significant statement of intent by the new government. ANDREW PUDDEPHATT Director, Charter 88 London ECI

Sir. Freedom of information and open government fall within the remit of Peter Mandelson. If New Labour does not go ahead with it, we will lose what faith and hope we have in them, which it is his job to maintain. Mr Mandelson has no portfolio of his own, just a remit to poke holes in other ministers'. It would dignify him and the Government if his efforts were directed towards a greater good



than Labour spin-doctrine: the honest and open presentation of government in power.

Why have they caved in so soon? Is maintaining the supremacy of the Stalinist tendency more important than reforming the way government serves the people? SARA CLARKE High Peak, Derbyshire

The people decide how to elect MPs

Sir: Many Labour MPs, new and old, are grateful to the The Independent for reminding us that electoral reform is an essential catalyst for a new political settlement for this country.

Labour in government will work for a one-nation society. But a onenation voting system which gives seats broadly in line with votes cast is still on our political agenda despite and because of Labour's landslide. In arguing for change, we cannot now be accused of defeatism.

At the first meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, Tony Blair reminded us that politicians are the servants not the masters. That is why the people will decide in a voting referendum how they elect MPs. We look forward to new voting systems for the 1999 European elections and to electing the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament after successful referendums to see them established.

A Labour government will set up Commission to decide the best system of proportional voting for Britain. This will need to maintain the link between constituency and member of Parliament and ensure that disproportionate power is not

wielded by small parties. But the debate about the voting system for the Commons in the next century RICHARD BURDEN MP

(Birmingham Northfield, Lab) Chair, Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform Redland, Bristol

Sir: Under PR everyone gets something they voted for, as opposed to one set of voters getting the lot and everyone else getting nothing. Policies would be based on compromise and co-operation. These are values we encourage in other areas of our lives - why should they not apply also to politics?
ANTHONY BITTAN Bexhill, East Sussex

Sir: John Diamond (letter, 7 May) says that 44.4 per cent of the voters have the government they voted for, but it would be interesting to know how many of these voters had read the Labour Party manifesto. How many were in fact tactical voters who chose Labour as the best means of unseating a Conservative? Exactly how many people have got the kind of

government they would really like? Calculation of how many seats Labour and the rest would have obtained under PR ignores the fact that the parties as we know them would not have existed under PR. Both Labour and the Conservatives would have long ago split and we would by now have four or five

largish parties and a few fringe ones. We have to accept that very few voters will get exactly what they want

from any political party. It is more important to have a government whose policies can be supported, in general, by a majority of voters.
GFSTEELE

Sir: One of the main reasons for introducing proportional representation is to bring some measure of honesty into our

electoral process. Parties have to trim their policies to appeal to swing voters in marginal constituencies. This is a narrow, unrepresentative sample of the population hut no party is electable without its support. This is profoundly corrupting; both manifestos were trimmed to fit the party spin doctors' conception of what this small group of people wanted to bear. PETER CERESOLE London SW14

Living in hope Sir. Hazel Read (Letters, 7 May) has been luckier than me. Having

had both grandfathers displaying Gladstone's portrait in their cottage sitting-rooms, a father who always acted as Liberal agent in our North Dorset village, and reputed myself to have said at an early age, 'Me no Tory", I have never voted for a successful candidate, though this time, in my ninetieth year, we came a very creditable second. But the light still shines. Long

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e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

live Paddy. ARTHUR HARCOURT Royston, Hertfordshire

American ways to fund universities

Sir: In your report (1 May) on the university President Clinton's daughter is assumed to be attending this antumn, Stanford is referred as the "most expensive in the US", suggesting that it is a rich kid's university.

This is untrue; the cost of a fully paid undergraduate education at Stanford is of the same order as that at Harvard, Princeton, Yale or Caltech and merely reflects the true cost of a good degree. It is unfair, hecause Stanford is among the last few socalled need-blind universities, once a large group.

It admits its undergraduates without regard to the ability of the student or the parents to pay. After acceptance, the Admissions Office prepares a full four-year budget including tuition, room, board, travel home, books etc. and matches it against the ability to pay. Any shortfall the university makes good through a variety of sources: loans, work study and direct grants from its own funds.

Not surprisingly, the economic that of the University of California and other state universities. TJEERD H VAN ANDEL

Cambridge

profile of its students and their parents is virtually identical with

Masonic defeat The writer is Loel Professor of Earth Sciences (emeritus), Stanford Sir: One henefit for all of us, arising from the sudden influx of ladies into the Commons may have been University overlooked: a dilution in the influence of that genteel maffa, the

Lawbreakers

on the roads

Youens's comments on cyclists breaking the law (Letters, 6 May), I have been cycling through the Medway Towns for 30 years. In that ime the number of sets of traffic lights on a six-mile stretch has multiplied from two to 17 and oneway systems take us on longer, hillier routes than we used to use.

Sir: With reference to Jonathan

All these changes are for the convenience of the drivers of polluting monsters which directly kill about 3,000 people per year and who knows how many indirectly by their fumes. A new tunnel has just been opened under the River Medway to knock a couple of miles off some journeys. Pedestrians and cyclists are barred from this facility, ICH IS FOR INOTOR VEHICLES OBLY

Can Jonathan Youens really hlame me if I sometimes lose patience and jump a red light or cut through the pedestrian precinct to avoid a long detour? The Rev ROGER KNIGHT Rochester, Kent

Sir: Jonathan Youens seems to believe that "infringing the law and the rules of common courtesy" is the sole preserve of cyclists.

In truth, a day does not go by when motorists of all ages do not consider the public footpath to be a car park. And perhaps routine exceeding of speed limits by motorists is the "greater disrespect for the law" that Mr Youens refers to as the consequence of failing to educate our children properly? LES TELFORD

Flitwick, Bedfordshire

'Pingers' may not

porpoises' lives" (28 April) highlights the problem of harbour porpoise

deaths in fishing nets that seems to

identified suggests that this is putting the survival of our porpoises at risk.

While research into potential

with noise-emitting "pingers" have

scientists suggest that they are unlikely to provide the whole answer

perpoises now. Several international bodies have called for urgent action

government made commitments to

More importantly, this work does

solutions is to be welcomed, trials

produced very mixed results, and

numerous uncertainties among

not address the needs of the

to address this issue and the last

protect this vulnerable species,

Action Plan. At the very least,

the problem so that long-term

solutions can be found.

ALI ROSS

Freemasons.

PETER HILL

Society

Bath

including in its own Biodiversity

emergency fisheries management

measures should be introduced to

reduce catches of porpoises where

they are most at risk and to monitor

Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire

be growing in the seas around

Britain. The scale of the catches

save porpoises

Sir: Your article "Noise to save

Sir: I was pleased by the call for a ban on the use of mobile phones whilst driving a car (report, 1 May). However, one wonders who will enforce this ban, since our overstressed police cannot control many other car driving offences such as defective headlights and the current trend to ignore the law requiring the use of seat belts.

The majority of passengers in the rear do not "clunk-click". I am horrified to witness young children standing between the front seats ready to be catapulted through the windscreen in the event of a crash. A growing number of front passengers and young drivers ignore the law. Can we not find an alternative law-enforcing agency to ensure that these laws are obeyed? DAVID R DOMBEY

Too many jailed

Sutton, Surrey

Sir: Michael Phillips (Letters, 6 May) asks me to say how far prison overcrowding is due to more people committing imprisonable offences, Between 1992 and 1995 the number of people sentenced for indictable offences fell by 7 per cent, but the proportion given prison sentences rose from 15 to 20 per cent and in Crown Courts from 44 to 56 per cent. The sharply rising prison population does not therefore result from more offenders appearing before the courts but from harsher sentencing. PAUL CAVADINO Chair, Penal Affairs Consortium London SW9

End of politics

Sir. Take the politics out of monetary policy? Great! Now for education, health, law-enforcement... FRANCIS ROADS London E18

It's Cook's tour, says Robin

The new Foreign Secretary travelled to Paris and Bonn in unaccustomed style, but he quickly found the right notes to strike with his opposite numbers, writes Donald Macintrye, who accompanied him on his journey

> t was Douglas Henderson, the new Minister of State for Europe, who summed it up. As the RAF BaE 146 touched down at Paris's Villacouhlay military airport after an in-flight breakfast of hacon, omelette, hot rolls and - of course - Fortnum and Mason marmalade, the one-time engineering apprentice and trade union official from Fife surveyed the scene, starched napkins, silver cutlery and all, and declared: "Well, it beats flying Britannia to Tenerife.

> You still feel that Henderson - a smart man who, in the 72 hours since he was appointed to join his hoss Rohin Cook at the Foreign Office on Sunday, has learnt more about the EU than most of us learn in a lifetime thinks he will suddenly wake up and find it's all a dream. He knows this is a serious job - coveted before the election by Peter Mandelson, no less. But now, standing in the sumptuous tapestried solemnity of the Quai D'Orsay (at the steps of which the French lay on not just a red carpet, hut a 14-strong sabrehrandishing guard of honour, splendid in gold hraid and kepis, formed by the élite Garde Republicaine), he just can't stop himself breaking out in a grin or

> It's partly, of course, that the trappings of power pass so swiftly and conspicuously from vanquished to victors in the British system. It's not just the hushed, respectful tones of the RAF personnel who carry the hags at Northolt, or the blue, armnured emhassy Rolls Royce in which the new Foreign Secretary sweeps through Bonn (Henderson having to make do with a mere Jaguar) or the company of

some of the keenest brains in Whitehall, like Paul Lever, the FCO's deputy secretary for Europe, and Jeremy Greenstock, the political director. It's also that everyone wants to hear what you say and know what you think.

Nigel Scheinwald, the Foreign Office's head of news, strains to hear what Cook is saying to a handful of journalists above the roar of the 146's jet engines: after all, this will be the New Line, distributed to dozens of news-hungry British embassies, to the world's press, to foreign governments. After less than a week the Line is still emerging. That's the peculiar thrill of a new government. Every remark the Secretary of State makes, every nuance. almost every raised eyehrow, helps the eager officials first to grasp what the Line will be, and then, with clinical efficiency, to ensure that it prevails. They are too professional to say so, but it's a Line they actually want to hear. Being nice to foreigners from time to time makes quite a change.

And this was very much - as the Foreign Secretary himself could not resist calling it - Cook's lour. Unlike Henyears to prepare for this moment. (Though even he momentarily forgot how much has changed: during a meet-ing with Hervé Le Charette, the French Foreign Minister, who chain-smoked his way through a working lunch with his new counterpart, of lobster, lamb, red fruits and ice cream, Cook referred to what "Labour", rather than The Government, would do).

Like Gordon Brown, with his decision on autonomy for the Bank of England, Cook hit the ground running, saying that Britain would sign up to the



Welcome to Kinkel's place; the Foreign Secretary will be looking for Cook's Diner to return the favour

Social Chapter at next month's Inter- to the advantage of future Anglogovernmental conference in Amsterdam. The move reverberated instantly through Europe. And it set a wholly new tone, first for Cook's trip this week, and second for the talks about the IGC which Tony Blair will have in London

from Egypl until Wednesday after-noon so Cook could go to Paris in the morning - making quite a lot of the fact when he got there that it was the first foreign country he had visited since the election - without offending Kinkel by going to Bonn second.

Just to make sure, when the talks began over asparagus, heef and wine with the German Foreign Minister at the coincidentally named Kinkel-Stuben restaurant, the Foreign Secretary promised to find a Cook's Restaurant for Kinkel to visit in London. This was not, perhaps, the greatest joke in the history of British diplomacy. But it seemed in break the ice. One German official sought out a senior British diplomat to say how impressed he had been not only by Cook's mastery of his brief but by his sense of humour. The talks produced one startling discovery. Kinkel appeared distinctly uncertain about the intricacies of the quota-hopping row over fishing. Was it possible that Tory ministers had not heen quite as angry about the issue in private as they were in public? Cook made nothing of this, of course. Instead, in a TV interview he neatly turned the Tories' "puppet Blair" campaign poster

German relations. "It was," he said magisterially, "quite inappropriate to the head of another government."

Another good omen was the extraordinary impact the Lahour victory has had on French, and to an extent, Gertoday with Wim Kok, the Dutch pre- man politics. In France there was mier and holder of the EU Presidency.

There was also a modest stroke of good luck: Klaus Kinkel was not back extensive coverage of last Thursday's man left. If Cook, as a possible left-wing challenger to Blair after John carrying 24 pages, edited in London. The event has become an issue in the French elections, with the right claiming that Blair won because he moved

Every politician in France wants to be Tony Blair?

his party away from the left, and the socialists claiming that it showed that the left can win. "Every politician in France wants to he Tony Blair," a French TV journalist told Cook in Paris. "Everyone wants to be Tony

Blair," Cook replied. Lionel Jospin, the French socialist leader, in his private talks with Cook in cramped offices in the rue De Vaugirard (offices which are more Transport House than Millbank), wanted to know all about New Lahour and was gripped by the conquest of the centre ground - though unlike Blair he has the disadvantage of competition from the communists on the left.

For Oskar Lafantaine, chairman of

the German SDP, who greeted Cook with an enormous bear hug, the Blair victory has not been an unmixed hlessing. The British party were shown a newspaper headline quoting Gerhard Schröder, Lafontaine's popular, for-midable and modernising rival, saying that he was the Tony Blair of the Ger-

sympathy, he certainly wasn't letting on. A clear New Labour strategy towards Europe is starting to emerge. Aside from his opposition to the single currency. Cook is a Euro-pragmatist rather than a Euro-sceptic. Any disappointment in Paris and Bonn about Britain's reluctance to join the single currency in the first wave was offset by Cook's clear promise not to obstruct its formation during our Presidency in the first half of 1998. It's true that the increasingly Europhobic tone adopted by both the main parties in the run-up to the election reflected, and perhaps contributed lo. a mood of public suspicion about Europe. That mood was fuelled by The Sun, Labour's powerful

new ally from the nationalistic right. That mood, Cook appears to believe, could change quickly if Britain is seen to secure even quite modest successes in Europe without giving ground on issues like borders or foreign policy. Even The Sun, which has had to perform a somersault roughly equivalent to that of the communist Daily Worker in the wake of the Nazi-Soviet pact, was curiously muted last Monday about the decision to go ahead and sign the Social Chapter. Is it so unimaginable that we could see headlines in it like "Blair pulls off deal for

Cook's strength is that he bas a persuasive story to tell about the forthcoming IGC which belies the Tories' pre-election rhetoric about the surrenders being prepared hy Lahour. He was, by all accounts impressively robust accounts, impressively robust in his talks with Kinkel and Le Charette about Britain's insistence on maintaining border controls, on keeping the EU out of defence, and on the dangers that so-called "flexibility" proposals could lead to an inner cahal, its nucleus formed by the countries which formed by the countries which join EMU. On this last - and potentially still one of the most difficult subjects for Amsterdam - Cook was clear: such flexibility shouldn't apply to the main economic areas of the EU or to foreign policy. And it should only apply in areas like immigration and justice if all 15 states agreed and probably more than half - perhaps 10 agreed to take part. And he argues that Britain is much likelier to get its way on all this if it doesn't make a virtue out of challenging every single other proposal. Cook is careful not to promise a successful. outcome: "By not fighting needless hartles," he says, "we will be able to focus energies on the battles we must win.

But he is also careful to stress that in several, if not all, of the areas in which Britain is prepared to reach agreement, she has a specific interest in doing so. The Social Chapter is being signed, he says, not to be nice to Europe, but because British workers should have the rights embodied in it. On the European Parliament he even seemed to be haffled why the

Tory sceptics oppose the new powers he and Blair are ready to concede. So far from heing an integrationist move, he says, it will help Strasbourg to impose a "democratic check" on the EU's other institutions. It's "totally weird" of the Tories to oppose ending the veto on anti-fraud measures when it simply means that a fraudulent country can

avoid penalties. And so on. It's almost impossible to underesti mate the impact of this change in language. Particularly since there are growing signs - evident in Cook's talks with Kinkel this week - that the Germans are now anxious to get through the IGC with the minimum of fuss in order to clear the decks for EMU. To be sure of this change of public mood, the government needs to make headway on lifting the beef han - which it has always held up as the most catastrophic failure of government policy.

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Cook shows every sign of knowing this; but he is guarded. It will, he says, need time. A sure sign of the new. alignment is that the Italians have started complaining vociferously to London about all this talk of France, Germany and Britain as the "big three" of Europe. It seems increasingly likely that the public mood could start changing faster than looked possible hefore the election, as a result of a successful, and relatively non-integrationist, IGC. Britain remains hostile to grand integrationist designs. And so do Cook and Blair. But real leadership in Europe would be a novel and attractive prospect. It could even make some Tories wonder if they have really been fighting the wrong hattles.

The Inside Story of Blair's Campaign On the road to victory BLAIR The book has been written by The The drama, the crises, the elation, the Mirror's John Williams, who spent lunacy and the fun are all here, right every minute of the election campaign from the start of the campaign to the on the road with Tony Blair and his moment of truth when the result was entourage. The stunning pictures are announced. It is the story of the election

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May 16 at £12.99. But Mirror readers

by Tom Stoddart, the official photo-

throughout the marathon campaign.

present a close-up picture of Tony

Blair's Battle for Britain '97 that will

fascinate everyone who reads it.

Between them, Williams and Stoddart

grapher who was at Blair's side

Cheer up, it's National Eternal Verities Day

n this age of change, as we sweep towards the 21st century and a world of Internet and computers. and away from the simple veritics of the 20th century like world wars and genocide. I find that many people feel they have nothing safe and sure left to

hold on 10. Here, for instance, is a letter from a reader which says: "Dear Mr Kington, I can sense that, beneath the trendy flash and modish references of your column, you are as much of an archconservative as I am. Could you comfort readers like me by providing us with a list of

things that never change

and which we can keep in

who have been recently

mind, especially those of us

saddened or sidelined by progress?" Willingly, Mr Portillo. Here is a short selection of the many things which never change in daily life, and which we can always

cling to. 1. Large posters for films which tell you everything you need to know about the people involved ("Music orchestrated by William Prankster from an idea by

Carl J Krieger") hut nothing about the film itself except one of those meaningless eliché stogans: "One of them had to die. Each thought it was the other.

Both were wrong ... 2. Boxes of safety matches which lle around the house untouched until. when you finally come to use them, you find they arc no good, either becaus somehndy has filled them entirely with used matches, or hecause the striking surface has gone too damp to provide friction, or because the heads of the matches are so old they fall

off on contact. 3. Tiny sticky labels on French apples saying

"French apple". 4. Birthday cards which specify who they are for, as in "The Best of Birthdays to my dearest Great-Aunt*.

5. Large, deep puddles which form in filling stations after five minutes of rain in such a place that you never notice them until you get out of your car and find yourself standing in one

6. Orange, red and hlue posters standing on sticks in the middle of fields urging



Miles Kington

you to vote for people called Foster, Chester or Blister in an election which took place months ago.

7. People who automatically pronounce "picluresque" as "pictureskew" even though they long ago gave up expecting

people to laugh at it.
8. "You are here" patches on lown maps and tube maps, tourisl maps and street maps, which are totally worn away and made illegible hecause many people cannot read public maps without putting their finger on the place marked "You are here" and tracing their route manually.

9. Huge posters which are so obscure that it takes a while to work out what the product being advertised is, and a lot longer to work out the connection.

10. Weather forecasts which are so versatile in their predictions that whatever happens seems to have been covered in the forecast, suggesting perhaps that meteorology and astrology are not so far apart as some of us might

11. VCR machines which, when you come to use them for timing a TV recording, are showing nothing but a flickering screen because there has been some recent electrical power cut, which means you now have to set the clock and date again, which means getting out the instructions for the machine, wherever they

12. The piece of card you normally put under the shortest leg of your kitchen table and which someone has thrown away because it didn't look as if it were needed.

13. Cellophane skins tightly wrapped round new tapes, cigarette packets, etc.

which look as if they will need a slight tug to remove but which are in fact designed to repet all but the fiercest onslaught with

scissors, knife and gun. 14. Serial stories in the press which feature someone called "Little Lucille" or "Young Wesley" in such headlines as "Little Lucille Still in Danger" or "No Sign of Young Wesley" and which mean nothing at all to you if you happen to have missed the first

episode. 15. Days which are designated National Days. as in National Smile Day, National Limerick Day or National Correct Signalling Day, though the only sign of this is someone on Radio 4's Today programme saying.

Well, today of course is National Smile Day, so cheer up, James," which is the last reference to it you gel for the rest of the day.

16. Snooker, the annual world championship of which seems to come round every three months and to lasl two-and-a-half months. A much fuller list of

slightly irritating things which

never change can be found in

The well of cynicism runs dry



2-7-

We had almost forgotten what politics is for ... it is there to change things, says Andrew Marr

Before the election, may be dismissed talk of a "first hundred days" of frantic activity by could be which his administration could be judged. Natural caution, no doubt: but the first hundred-plus hours have been extraordinary enough. Whatever disappointments lie ahead, nn one can now say that Labour has come into government without the ideas or energy needed for success.

Among the welter of interviews, promises, hills being prepared and appointments announced, there is already a theme emerging. It could be called the politics of executive power. A disciplined centralism not seen in Whitehall outside wartime is briskly unveiled. New Lahour MPs. with freshly crumpled Underground maps to hand, are ordered to abstain from strong drink, sexual congress and political talk of all kinds.

The key promises of the manifesto are quickly prioritised. Bills are ordered up with a sense of urgency we haven't seen for years. Knucklecracking civil servants, grinning with trepidation, are told what is what; and find their new masters more forceful and confident than they'd expected.

The Governor of the Bank of England is bundled early out of bed and frogmarched by a team of beetlebrowed former journalists from the Financial Times to be handed Britain's interest rate policy by Gordon Brown. Across the Channel, meanwhile, Robin Cook is kissed, despite his bristles, by numerous smooth Frenchmen and then heartily

palpated by Germans. Press officers in departments across London are told to clear every announcement with Alastair Campbell. Journalists are warned that the days of basted quails and lemony Sancerre with young ministers are over. A V-formation of despatch riders roars down the Mall to inform the seen that, from now on, permission to leave her private apartments will have to be obtained in writing from Against all that w the office of Peter Mandelson.

Well, I exaggerate a little. But the self-confidence and purposefulness of the New Labour leadership is remarkable, surprising and admirable.

Of the chaoged ministerial hriefs, most arc eocouragiog. For example, Donald Dewar is the right man to carry forward Scottish devolution and Nick Brown will make a formidable Chief Whip, with just the right mix of geniality and brutality. Though Chris Smith will be disappointed not be given Health, he is the right man for the Department of National Heritage - which he should quickly rename the Ministry of Culture - and has a very good team there. They can make more of a difference to the country's mood than perhaps they yet realise. Overall, my impressioo is of a Government which is less doughy and more inter- I'd thought.

esting than we could have hoped for. Things will not carry on as hithely as this. Events and political entropy will take their toll. It may be sensible hut I do not believe the control being attempted by Number 10 will be susattempted by Number 10 will be sus-tainable. It isn't compatible with Par-liamentary policies; Government is too big, and there are too many big egos involved. More important are the hig political and even philosoph-ical issues still to be resolved by New Labour. As hard shores are made Labour. As hard choices are made, the coalition of assent created by Blair in opposition will begin to fracture.
It will not be possible to carry through radical pensions reform without extra resources. It will not be possible to make enough of a difference in the Health Service or education without diverting funds or finding new money.

Yet any tax increases in the coming Budget, whether from council tax.
VAT, allowances or inheritance tax, will anger parts of the Middle England New Labour has so assiduously wooed. Well, some enemies have to be made. Blair might reflect, perhaps, that he won his landslide more hecause the Tory voters stayed at home than because of an army of Home Counties converts; and that he will be forgiven some extra taxation - so long as it is not extreme - if he shows a clear sense of direction and political purpose. What is intolerable is squandered taxation.

On the other hig choice con-fronting Labour, whether to be radical/reformist, or conservative/centralist, the early evidence is mixed. There are the already cited central-ising tendencies inside Government. If those hardened into an obsessive "control freak" culture, then we could suddenly find Labour reneging on its commitment to reviving local democracy - or democracy generally. The Government could perfectly well have introduced a Freedom of Information Bill straight away; I will be Against all that we must set the

vigour and appetite for reform that is in the Queen's Speech list - including Scottish and Welsh devolution and the planned referendum on London government, as well as the freer financial regime for town halls. On halance I think we should be heartened by the Blairites' early moves on reform. Above all, there is an impatieot energy coursing through West-minster that hasn't been there since the heyday of Thatcherism. We had almost forgotten what politics is for not for internalised party vendettas, or colloquies on the nature of sovereignty, or TV soap opera, or even to provide the raw material for show-off journalism. It is there to change things. And maybe it will: lowering my hucket over the past few days. I've discovered that my well of cynicism isn't quite as fetid and bottomless as



Welcome to 'Blair's Babes' but the struggle goes on

his is an historic occa-sion indeed! Margaret Beckett has been called a habe. There she is down at the froot of that terrific picture of Tony Blair sur-rounded by all the New Labour women on the steps of Church House. The Daily Mail chose to headline this image "Blair's Babes". Matthew Parris commented somewhat archly: "So many purple suits! So much hairspray!" It all reminded me of that

picture of Hugh Hefner sur-rounded by his Playboy Bunnies, except of course that these women are not bunnies, they are, say it again, MPs. The sudden visibility of women is so enchanting, one is inclined to

forget that only two weeks ago women were virtually invisible in the election campaign. Indeed, that she was in fact ... er, Minister for Women. We can forget that Roy Hattersley called women-only shortlists "a silly idea", that Blair himself described the scheme as "not ideal at all". We can forget the battles that Clare Short had when she was Spokespersoo for Women. We can forget the promise of a separate and properly funded Ministry for Women.

Now that new era has begun and New Labour flaunts its femininity, perhaps these things may be emi-oently forgettable. We just don't need to worry our pretty heads about positive discrimination anymore. Look how much better Labour is than the Tories with their unlucky 13 female MPs, Anyway, affirmative action, that offensive Americanised phrase, smacks Labour has 101 women in Parliament thanks to feminist drive, but what will they do for their worse-off sisters, asks Suzanne Moore

of political correctness, of old-intake are women. So how many of fashioned feminism, of a hygone era of wimmin, of Big Sister watching every move.

It is easy enough to say that things would have got better all by themselves. After all, this is the age of Girl Power, of a culture in which girls are outperforming boys at every level. In some classes and in some situations this is certainly true. The earnings gap between young male and female professionals is closing. Yet at both the top end and bottom end of society, the gender gap is as wide as it ever was. Only 3 per cent of company direc-tors are female, and at the other can forgive and forget a lot of things if we really try, just like Tony Blair forgot to tell Harriet Harman of women and children are living in appalling circumstances.

The idea of separate women's issues has become almost meaningless, but if anything is a women's issue, it is the minimum wage that looks like being set at a lower level than has previously been discussed. Had the Minister for Women's job oot been tacked on to Harriet Harman's already hulging portfolio, it is possible to imagine that some of the Labour Party's commitments to women might be delivered. Of course none of these commitments were in the Labour party pledges, so no actual promises will be hroken. None the less, both those within and without the party have expectations about what a Labour government will actually do for us. Despite the photo-opportuni-ties, less than a quarter of the new

these were propelled into power through the despised all-women shortlists? Less than a third. If we say that perhaps half of these women might have got through anyway, we are talking perhaps about 15 women who benefited from this quota system. Yet what these shortlists did was raise the profile of women in the party, provoking a debate that meant a sluggish and smug institution became more self-aware. Barbara Follett's powerful argument at the time was that without doing anything, nothing would change. As she reminded us, Labour returned the of women to Parliament in 1987 as it did in 1945. Blair, in one sense, was right to say that the shortlists were not ideal, but then the alternative was doing nothing and ending up like the Tory Party.

Positive discrimination in favour of women, as we have seen in other countries, often means that its heneficiaries are defensive. It also means a male backlash with men cast as the new victims. Yet it is a means to an end; and at conference last year, Labour backed a motion calling for a target of 50 per cent female MPs in the next 10 years. It was proposed by Clare Shart, who described it correctly as the "biggest modernisation of all". Even Tories were forced to comment on the number of bright young women at conference, Boris Johnson registering much Hot Totty on his own personal Tottymeter.

And now that the Totty is on display, giggling in the corridors of

queue to get into the Ladies, they remain an unknown quantity. The expression "transitional women" is

women who were already considered acceptable by the boys.

There is nothing transitional about the new mob of women, their number makes them a solid presence. Some of them even wear normal clothes instead of those pecu-

being handied about. It applies to

the Harmans and the Jowells, the

liar power suits. What with a handful of openly gay MPs, someone in a wheel-chair, a few more black faces, Parliament cross-section of the population. Nearer but not near enough.

In the flush of victory it is easy to forget that. Just as it easy to overlook the fact that those 101 female MPs were not delivered by Mr. Blair's hand alone. They were delivered by a combination of cultural change - the electorate has less of a problem in voting for a women than ever before - and political activism: a conscious, stubborn and explicitly feminist drive towards deliver for all women?

not so gentle, is that at a time when such feminist tactics are referred to as "so Seventies", as completely out of touch and out of date, they have produced such a dramatic change to the House of Commons.

For the Tories this is yet another roblem that they must deal with if they want to reconstitute themselves as a serious party. At a grassroots level they need to persuade their female supporters to vote for women instead of more ghastly Tory Boys. For the Conservatives to impose any surt of quota system is almost inconceivable, but without one it is difficult to see how

any sort of progress will be made. However, while New Lahour congratulates itself on its landslide and its new feminised culture, it should also remember its irritating little anthem "Things can only better ..." While we are looking forward, glance hackward over New Labour's shoulder and you will see the struggle it has been to produce this profound shift in its own culture. Being a politician means never having to say you are sorry and I don't expect Blair to be any different; but he cannot be allowed to take all the credit here. At long last the party has delivered up some women. The question now is this: what can the Government

What little doctors need to learn

en-year-old boys are supposed to be interested in football, computer games and Rollerblading - the joys of youth. Not girls. Not sex. Not rape. So many people will be shocked to hear that four of them (and a nine-vear old) have been hailed after the alleged rape of a nine-year-old girl at a London primary school. The girl was, it is claimed, assaulted in a lavatory at lunchtime.

It is too soon to comment on the particular case. Few facts have been confirmed. All we can be sure of is that this little girl has had a very traumatic experience, from which it will be difficult to recover. But the story does provide an opportunity for some long overdue honesty about what really happens in the playground.

First of all, like it or not, children have a sexual interest in each other very early on Among five or six-years, he's sexing hear the comment: "Miss, he's sexing her." It might be that a boy and a girl are just lying in the cosy corner of the classroom having a cuddle, play-acting. but it is the heginnings of interest. At seven, they might have a special friend from whom they steal a kiss. At nine and ten, children have girlfriends and boyfriends and the furtive kissing may be more experimental. For the boys, it is often a case of bravado, of proving themselves to their peers, whereas the girls, who are more mature, may actu-

ally have a crush on a boy-But it isn't all just playing doctors and nurses. Sexual exploration can get rough, even in primary school. After all, about one in four girls are menstruating by



Jack O'Sullivan

Young boys interested in sex need to be taught more than just names for parts of the body

we don't really know). A few are taller than some of their teachers, and their voices have dropped. "It is a safe assumption that one or two in a year group will be capable of ejaculation," according to Dr John Coleman of the Trust for the Study of Adolescence.

Primary school teachers will tell you of occasions when groups of primaryage boys have got girls in a corner and tried to touch them up. There are also cases where a girl, perhaps because she has been sexually abused, will tend to re-enact what happened to her and will encourage boys to touch her.

Sexual expression gets entangled with violence. Once boys reach nine or

ten, they find themselves having constantly to prove themselves, demonstrate their masculinity, to impress their all-important peer group. Boys may need to show that they don't need girls, particularly if they are not very successful with them," says David Warden, a child psychologist at Strathclyde University. These unsuccessful boys are the most likely to get aggressive in an effort to gain at least the support of their male peers." Both boys and girls explore how, by using cruelty, they can gain power over people. Among girls, says Dr Warden, it's more likely to be verbal cruelty, undermining a boy's self-esteem, calling him a wimp. The boys are more

likely to hit out. Amidalithis, there is great confusion. says Gill Lenderyou, the forum's horror stories.

their final year and a small minority of A child will report that a boy and a girl boys will also have entered puberty are having sex, when all that happened (the average age is 12, although the poverty of research about boys means will use words without understanding what they are saying. Adults will get the full meaning and he shocked, which is, perhaps, exactly what the child wants.

Some of this is new. Children hear much more about sex than they did in the past. It's on every television channel. It is enough to be literate and to open a newspaper - at once you gain access to an adult world. All this makes playground language much more robust. But those who work with children say that, for all the information they gain through the media about sex, young people have the same old difficulties of making sense of it all.

Boys face particular difficulties. Not only do they often grow up in a highly competitive, bullying context at school, a culture in which it is de rigueur to hold girls in disdain from the ages of seven or eight, so as to prove yourself a "real man". Boys also grow up in isolatioo from proper support in their sexual development. At primary school, children learn the parts of the body through the science curriculum. But this focus on reproductive techniques tends to engage girls more than boys, according to the Sex Education Forum. which has organised governmentfunded seminars on the deficiencies of provision for boys. The stuff about relationships, social skills and morality can easily be squeezed out by the demands of the national curriculum.

co-ordinator. Meanwhile, at home mothers tend to talk more to their daughters than to their sons about sexuality, and fathers are reluctant to

raise the issue at all. Part of the problem is that boys are not seen as having an obvious stage of development equivalent to girls menstruating. But another factor is that sex education is partly a response to fears. Parents are still less worried about what a son gets up to than about the possibility of a daughter becoming pregnant. Boys are less likely to learn about sex from informed sources such a health professionals because they are unlikely to attend a young person's clinic in the first place.

What all this adds up to in these supposedly enlightened times is a generation of boys who are largely cast adrift by the adult world as they try to make sense of their sexual identity. These are boys who will face considerable peer pressure to lose their virginity and who, unless offered other guidance, will learn much of what they know about sex from pornography.

Interesting solutions are being pioneered. Some primary schools now provide puberty sessions for boys. Others have invited fathers into school for sessions with their sons to discuss the boys' feelings about sexuality. This is a start. But there is a long way to go. If we fail to support boys properly, we should not be surprised that many take their sexual confusions into adulthood and that the early lives of a few are marked by sexual



business & city

BCCI fraudster jailed for record 14 years and fined £3m

Kim Sengupta

Ahbas Kasimili Gokal, the world's higgest fraudster, yesterday received the longest jail sentence ever handed down by a British court for fraud. The higgest ever orders for compensation and legal costs in a fraud case were also made against

Gokal, the man in the centre of the Legal Aid Board.

Collapse of the Bank of Credit & Gokal, 61, had been convicted of collapse of the Bank of Credit & Commerce International, was jailed for 14 years at the Old Bailey. The defendant, who had fought his case on legal aid, was also told to pay £2.94m in compensation from his personal assets within two years or face a further three years in prison.

The judge also agreed to a prosecution request that the costs of As he was being led down to the £4.3m for the £25-day trial should be awarded against the disgraced Pakistani shipping magnate. However, the enforcement of this order was stayed until further assets held by and waved at his wife Rukaiya, and Gokal could he traced. The Serious daughter Sukaiyna in the public

Fraud Office believes that he has £100m secreted abroad.

Mr Justice Buxton said that he was satisfied that Gokal, subsidised by the British taxpayer during the case, had more than enough funds to bankroll his own defence. But he added they did not wish to pass any comments on the "appropriateness" of the defendant being given funds by the

fraud involving \$1.2bn (£740m) in loans from the corrupt Bank. He was a close friend of Hassan Abedi, the bank's founder, and had heen the higgest single borrower before banking authorities shut down BCCI in 1992 following the discovery of fraud to the value of \$20bn.

As he was heing led down to the haired slightly stooping figure in a navy chalk striped suit, white shirt, hlack and white patterned tie, smiled

gallery. The court had been told that Gokal, who had claimed he was penniless, had been giving them and oth-er memhers of the family "gifts" in an attempt to avoid paying financial

Mr Justice Buxton said be was taking the defendant's age into ac-count, as well as the fact he had spent almost three years in custody since his arrest at Frankfurt in 1994 in deciding his sentence. But he was scathing in his condemnation of Gokal's criminal career, and the "lying and untrue defence" he had put forward.

The judge said: "I am wholly satisfied that you are an intelligent, sophisticated and unscrupulous man who put the interests of yourself and your family hefore all else.

These were not victimless crimes. First the fraudulent conduct of a major international bank, BCCI, and the concealment from its audi-tors and regulators of its insecure financial position, all of which you



Abbas Gokal: Convicted of fraud

helped and facilitated, created a serious threat to the integrity of the

whole international banking system. "Secondly, one of the main objectives of the conspiracies was to conceal the true position of BCCI enabling it to continue to take funds from depositors. The victims of that

of their investments and in some cases a large part of their life savings. They trusted the bank with their money, as you knew they would. Other de-positors were public bodies, including local authorities, who although not ruined by the collapse of BCCI have found their activities seriously restricted; and thus the interests of the

inhabitants of their area seriously

damaged by losing their deposit."
He added: "You have shown not the slightest apology or remorse for these massive frauds or for the damage and loss that your conspiracies have caused to many thousands of

innocent people.
"I have not the slightest doubt that, with the cynical calculation that has characterised all your dealings, you put forward a lying and untrue de-fence, because you hoped that the complicated nature of the fraudulent agreement that you had made, and the skill with which you have sought to cover your tracks, would cause against you in court that you would

The judge added that in his view an improper and dishonest relationship existed between Gokal and the BCCI founder, Abedi, from the very beginning. As early as 1975 the pair were involved in illicit activities, and together created a miasma

of false documentation and accounts.
Anthony Hacking QC, the prosecutor, told the court that Gokal had operated "behind a wall of mirrors", concealing a network of "money laundering, and sophisticated and devious fraud". He added that the defendant was incapable of giving truthful evidence".

After sentencing, Chris Dickson, a senior SFO lawyer said: "This was one of the most complex investigations ever mounted by us. We had to send investigators to every continent to gather evidence because Gokal insisted on pleading not guilty. We also had to call witnesses from

were those who have lost a large part such difficulty in proving the case 80 different countries. We are convinced that a huge amount of money is still hidden abroad. This is no consolation to thousands of investors, many of them small busi-

nessmeo who have lost everything.
The collapse of BCCI in 1991 led to financial disaster for depositors, including public bothes. The Western Isles Council lost £23m, Westminster. City Council was owed £3.5m and Harlow Council in Esser £4.5m. One of the biggest single losers was the Sheikh She

Gokal, charged on two counts of conspiring to account falsely and conspiracy to defraud, was sentenced to four years on the first count and 10 years on count two, the sentences to

be served consecutively.

In 1994 liquidators for BCCI of tained a High Court order for \$8306.

against Gokal. Yesterday, at the Old Bailey, Mr Justice Buxton, said: "It seems quite clear to me that Mr Gokal has not the slightest intention of complying with any court order."

BT to get early release from bar on broadcast TV

The Government is to start early talks with British Telecom aimed at allowing the telephones giant to move swiftly into entertainment broadcasting.

Any such dispensation would end the long-standing han on BT hroadcasting entertainment across its telephone network, a prevented it from investing hil-tions of pounds in high-capacity fibre optic cables. In an interview with The In-

dependent, Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, vesterday indicated Lahour would fulfil the promise it made in opposition two years ago, that BT would be allowed to comthe han is due to be reviewed.

schools, hospitals and libraries to the so-called information superhighway free of charge.

He said his department and the Department of Trade and Industry would talk to BT about the proposals in "the near fu-ture". Mr Smith added: "We did set out a couple of years ago a set of proposals that enabled BT restriction it has claimed has to have access to an entertainment market on a somewhat faster time scale than is envisaged in the current legislation. Those proposals are still on the page, so to speak. We'd want to begin discussions in the rela-

tively near future." Under the agreement, Mr Smith said BT would be committed to developing a "broadachieve". He estimated

pete with the cable television hand network as near to industry sconer than 2001 when nationwide as we could In return he would expect BT such a project could cost BT as Telewest delays joint

The race to launch the first competitive environment has digital interactive television service slowed yesterday when the UK's two largest cable nperators revealed they may delay the start of their planned joint service by up to six months, writes Chris Godsmark.

The move follows this week's news that British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), the digital satellite venture involving British Telecom and BSkyB, will not reach consumers until spring next year, Graham Wallace, chief executive of Cable & Wireless Communications and Stephen Davidson, chief executive of Telewest, have discussed postponing their digital cable service from the planned start date of October or November, to coincide with Sky's launch. Mr Wallace said yesterday:

"Given that the external

venture with CWC

changed we're looking at

whether we should change our timetable. We certainly won't launch after Sky though." Mr Davidson said a full lannch in the autumn was now just one of several possible options. "We've only had 24 hours to absorb the news from BIB. It may be pru-

smaller trial launch to work out whether the systems are right." BIB had hoped to begin hroadcasting up to 200 digital entertainment, shopping and information channels this year but was hit by delays to the launch of a new Astra satellite. Telewest also cast doubt on

dent to have an early but

whether BIB set-top boxes, which decode programmes, would work with cable. BIB claimed an additional component would allow cable access.

much as £10bn, though the company has previously said this would total £15bn. It currently invests some £2bn a year.

A BT spokesman said yesterday: "This reaffirms Labour's commitment to the findings of the Trade and Industry Select Committee which said the han should he lifted earlier." However, the news will upset

the cable companies and could lead to conflict with the industry regulator, Don Cruickshank. Both have argued that the ban was the only way to encourage rival operators to invest hillions of pounds in developing networks. There are also question marks over BT's commitment to invest heavily in laying fibre optic cables to homes. Last year it experimented with a television service to 2.500 phone wires, but the digital technology needed to make it

Referring to the development of digital television, Mr Smith said the Government had a more "pro-active" role to play. While he would not he drawn on specific policies, he commented:

"We do need to put some thought into how digital television is being promoted by the Government and what sort of access people are going to have

He said he would be formulating proposals within the next few months, and added: "My aim will be to find the best possible ways of ensuring that ordinary people sitting at home can have the quickest and cheapest access to digital television technology. We have to set the parameters of public policy in a way that enables that ac-

cess to be achieved." He also said that he had no immediate intention of relaxing cross-media ownership legislation, contrary to some expec-



Magnus Grimand

An unlikely alliance between Noel Edmonds, the former disc jockey, and Chris Evans, the Welsh biotechnology entrepre-neur (rather than the other former disc jockey), was scaled yesterday with the ambitious aim of bringing the virtues of the in-car office and other hi-tech gizmos for drivers to nearly a third of the population.

In a deal worth up to £600,000 in shares, Mr Edmonds, now better known for his televised House Party at Crinkly Bottom, will spearhead a campaign to raise the awareness of Mr Evans' Toad group, a maker of car security products which saw its shares crash in Fehruary after the sudden departure of its chief executive, Charles Parker.

Noel Edmonds signs deal with Toad

Mr Edmonds' Unique Group, which takes in his hroadcasting to marketing in-terests, is selling the Challenge Technology Partnership, a consultancy operation, to Toad. Challenge claims to have signed up several hig car companies to develop hi-tech products such as an external camera to deter perpetrators of road rage attacks and an in-car video con-

ferencing system. Unique will receive an initial payment of 500,000 shares, valued at £205,000 at Toad's share price of 41p. up 1.5p yesterday, payable from Mr Evans' personal 20 per cent stake in the group.

But, according to him, the real potential of the deal lies in the earn-out provisions. Up to I million more new shares, worth £410,000, are payable if Mr Edmond's "extensive" media and car industry contacts result in at least 30 per cent of the UK population becoming aware of the Toad brand over the next two years and certain

share price targets, up to a maximum of 240p, are met. Mr Evans said: "If he can achieve 30 per cent, that is potentially 8.5 million car drivers who are well versed in Toad products ... We couldn't handle 8.5 million customers, but 1 per

cent or 80,000 would represent tens of millions [of pounds] in

Mr Edmonds will be personally promoting Toad products at motor shows and the company would be "popping up in lots of high profile places," Mr Evans

This was all part of the Toad chairman's commitment after February's "blip" to "really put this company hack on the fast track" over the next 12 months.

The link up with Mr Edmonds had already won new accounts with hig fleet users, he said, and it would now result in an acceleration of the launch of Toad's new Actra car-locating system, previously scheduled for the end of next year.

He reiterated that the company was on course for prof-itability next year.

with two of the multiplexes on

offer going to DTN and one to

This is helieved to be the ap-

proach most favoured by the

Government, which is con-

cerned about BSkyB extending

its present near-monopoly of

subscription television on to

BDB did not return calls last that the licence might be split,

BSkyB

CWC set to cut 500 jobs in initial overhaul

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Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Cable & Wireless Communications, the recently formed cable TV and telephony giant, is about to cut hundreds of man-agerial jobs as it merges the administrative operations of the four companies which joined to form the new venture.

The company has advertised 80 senior jobs in a first layer of management below the executive board and confirmed vesterday that it had received 300 internal applications, though some had come from staff on lower grades. Once the round of appointments is completed a further three larger manage-ment layers will be advertised inside the group. The aim is for each layer of management to organise the selection process for the next layer.

was likely to result in a total of 500 job cuts because there were far more applicants than jobs available. CWC was created out of the landmark merger, announced last year, of Cable & Wireless's Mercury subsidiary with three cable operators, Nynex CableComms, Bell Cablemedia and Videotron. CWC shares began trading last

month. The job cuts, which will take place later this year, will almost certainly result in generous redudancy payments. The four companies have offered staff socalled "loyalty bonuses" if they stay in their posts until the

process is completed. Graham Wallace, chief executive, said the selection process had been "totally fair and above board". He added: "This laver of staff will be in place by the end of May and from 1 June we will move on to the next layer. The hulk of the staff are incredibly motivated to make this work. We're doing it in a rigorous and fair way and we've

heen very open about it."

Mr Wallace also cast doubt on claims that the total joh cuts across the group would rise to 2,000 once call centres and network control buildings were merged or closed. The process is expected to take much longer than the initial administrative job cuts.

He said overall staff numbers for the group may not fall much helow their current level of 12,500. This could he a nonissue. We are looking at expanding sales and marketing functions so you can't conclude that overall numbers will fall. The expansion could more than offset the reductions."

Hollick invests £120m in bid for digital terrestrial licence

None the less, the addition of

Lord Hollick's United News & Media is joining Digital Television Network, one of two bidders for the licence to run digital terrestrial television, with a promised investment of £120m over United has always been part

of DTN's programming submission to the Independent Television Commission, but until

4580.40 +42.90

+15.90

7187 19 +101.54 +1.4

20061.81 +12.91 +0.1

13740.30 +134.39 +1.0

involved in the bid.

It was unclear last night whether Lord Hollick's late commitment of funds could make any difference to the ITC's deliberations, which are already well advanced.

The ITC is expected to award the licences by early next month. DTN has so far been widely

Bay's change Change (%) 1996/57 Righ 1996/97 Law Yield(%)

4580.40

2226.20

2188.16

4056.60 3.54

1989 78 3.51

4729.40 4469.40 3.59

7225.32 5032.94 1.73

20180.92 17303.85 0.80†

Source: FT Information

STOCK MARKETS

+0.9

regarded in the City as the outsider, with most analysts expecting all three multiplex licences to go to the rival British Digital Broadcasting, a consor-num of BSkyB, Carlton and

any way thereafter.

Honey Market Rates

Germany

Beschmark halless

1 Heath

5.72

0.43

3.09

1 Year

6.34

0.84

Prior (s) Change (s) Changes, Falls

for DTN, which had appeared to lack the financial and industrial credibility of the rival hidder. DTN's only backer until yesterday was NTL the tel-Bids for the licences had to be evision transmission business in by the end of January and in owned by International Cahle-Tel. Other potential partners, in-cluding Merryl Lynch and theory could not be altered in

INTEREST RATES

Boad Yields

! Hadista Stend (%) Your Ass

 88
 5.4
 BTR
 231

 7
 5.4
 KWik Save Group
 291

 91
 5.3
 Yute Catto & Co
 349.5

NatWest, dropped out before the hid was submitted. United will be seen as a hig boost

night but was widely believed to Barday Knapp, chief executive of NTL, said he was confident the late involvement of United would not be ruled out of court.

The hid is still as it was when we submitted it on 31 January, but United will become a 30 per cent shareholder in DTN if we are successful." Mr Knapp said.

be considering an appeal.
One analyst said: "It's all very well for DTN to say the hid as submitted to the ITC has not been changed, but the ITC cannot fail to take this latest development into account. It's a crafty There has been speculation



Pound \$ (London) 1.6207_-1,58c _1.5162 E (London) 0.5170 +0.59c 0.6596 E (N York)# 0 6171 +0 62c 0 6560 \$ (N York)\$ 1.5205 _-1.65c _1.5243 DM (Landon) 2.7673 4.65pt 2.3019 DM (London) 1.7075 -1.19pf 1.5183 Y_(London) 200.628 -Y3.681 159.545 * (London) 123.795 -Y1.05 105.230 98.8 -1.5 84.1 Sindex 1048 -0.4 96.2

OTHER INDICATORS Yesterday Boy's che Hear Ago heden Latest Yr Ago Ment Figs 18.39 +0.27 19.30 155.4+2.5pc 150.9 18 May
 16.39
 + 0.27
 19.30
 RPI
 155.4+2.5pc 150.9

 344.20
 +2.9
 394.00
 6DP
 109.7+2.6pc 107.0

 212.38
 +3.83
 259.86
 Base Rates
 - 6.25pc 6.75
 109.7+2.60c 107.0 25 May

Kwik Save to spend £18m on consultants

Kwik Save, the beleaguered with flat underlying profits, a discount-supermarket group. discount-supermarket group, will pay £18m in consultancy fees over the next two years as it conducts a radical overhaul of close to their five-year low, as the ailing husiness, writes Nigel

Most of the fees will be paid to Anderson Consulting, which was called in by Kwik Save last are 6 per cent lower than the year to undertake a strategic year to undertake a strategic review. The firm will be paid 17m this year. "It seems Andersen are running the business," one are lest said.

All year to undertake a strategic same period last year. "It's pretty horrendous," said Frank Davidson, food retail analyst at ABN Amro Hoare ness." one analyst said.

The costs were revealed as Kwik Save announced a poor set of figures for the first half

customer numbers.

The shares fell 17p to 291p, the market took fright at the company's current trading statement. This showed same store sales in the seven weeks

Govett. "I think they are in a vicious circle of decline. There are deep structural problems. Investment column, page 24

Locg Bond (19) feer Age

Price to Change to % Change

35 5 13.5

7.13

6.95_

DATE TO BE Pro Treas natur, and ket Bur domes in

BECAUSE W NOH2 DD SHOL top-up, courtesy of

other taxpayers'

Pension funds defend a skewed playing field

The fabulous real returns they have enjoyed on equities over the past 10 years hardly support the case for an extra

neudle, as well they should, for abolition of the tax credit enjoyed by pension funds on dividend income is an obvious and very probable target for Labour. Having been taken unawares by Norman Lamont four years ago, when he raised £1 hn by reducing the ACT rate from 25 to 20 per cent, they are not about to roll over without a well-orchestrated fight.

At stake is the £4bn annually of tax on dividend income that gross funds are able to claim hack from the Government. Because the companies that pay the tax are able to offset this advance payment against subsequent corporation tax bills, the only loser in the current system is the Government.

Actually the loss of revenue in the last 12 months has probably been a great deal more, thanks to the flood of special dividends, share buy-backs and other iogenious whereas the Contract of the state of the special dividends. wheezes the City has dreamt up to leg over the Treasury. If the penny has finally dropped in Whitehall, it is arguable that the City has only itself to hlame.

For all its hluster, the NAPF doesn't really

have a credible argument against the reformers. The tax credit, designed with the admittedly worthy aim of encouraging retirement savings, represents a severe skewing of the playing field on which pension funds compete with other forms of saving via equities.

The NAPF claim that the abolition of ACT would reduce the real return on shares is also more apparent than actual if you

the inflation-adjusted return by about 0.75 per cent. Furthermore, the fabulous real returns pension funds have enjoyed on equities over the past 10 years hardly support the case for an extra top-up, courtesy of other taxpayers.

Perhaps the only sensible argument

against tampering with the system is that companies facing a reduction in the value of their pension funds would be forced to top them up, thus reducing their taxable profits and lowering the tax take through general corporation tax. What the Government takes with one hand it could be forced to give hack with the other. Again, the likely effect here is probably exaggerated by the

Set against this is the self-evident truism that the fiscal privilege accorded the pension funds encourages companies to over-distribute their profits at the expense of longterm investment. There is no incentive to keep money within a business taxed at 33 per cent when the marginal rate for dividend payments is only 13 per cent. The effect of the present system, therefore, is to favour short-term indirect investment over longterm direct investment. This is a philosophical justification for abolition added to

the more practical one of raising revenue. The new Chancellor would none the less be unwise to view this pleasing coincidence

The pension funds are getting in early in believe figures from PDFM which suggest the abolition or phasing out of divimatching reductions in corporate tax to provide real incentive to direct investment. Ideally there should be a quite lengthy and wide-ranging review of the whole system of corporation tax. But then this is a Chancellor in a hurry and with a pressing need for

Don't rule us out of rejoining ERM

Chancellor who can astound every body by declaring the Bank of England independent one morning probably would be capable of deciding to take Britain back into the exchange rate mechanism before breakfast the next day. That, at least, seems to have been the reasoning of those traders in the currency markets who accepted the rumour that sterling was about to re-enter the ERM at a rate of DM2.50. After all, the abour government has been cosying up to the Europeans all week.

The Treasury scotched the rumour, but the fact that it was neither true oor plausible yesterday does not mean that it never will be. Gordon Brown said earlier this week that the UK was very unlikely to join the first wave of the single currency. That means the question of sterling's relationship to the euro will need to be resolved, and it seems very of purpose as proving the case. At the very possible that the Government will join the

ERM version two planned for "ours". This will not be the ERM as we knew it at the time of our national humiliation in 1992. Sterling would be linked at an agreed rate to the composite euro, rather than heing rushed in at an inappropriate rate against the German mark. Furthermore, the permissihle bands of variation would be much wider than they were up to 1992. British membership would be seen as a signal of hon-ourable intentions towards eventual mem-bership of the single currency, so sterling would be supported by intervention from the European Central Bank if necessary. And what could be more appealing than announcing sterling's candidature for the ERM when Britain takes over the presidency

of the Commission on 1 January? After all, the UK will be overseeing the process of deciding which other members qualify for the euro despite being one of the countries least likely to want to join.

Labour dances on the bones of Clarke's PFI

Door old Kenneth Clarke. Labour is truly dancing on his bones. Not content with consigning the Ken and Eddie show to the dustbin of history, Gordon Brown has now taken the shears to another of the former Chancellor's pet projects, the Private Finance

Initiative. Henceforth, Whitehall will no longer

have to test its capital spending plans against the PFI to get the go-ahead. Before the man-darins gleefully take out their cheque books, however, there is one small snag. Nor will there will be any more public money to finance their wish lists. In fact there will be fless. Mr Brown and his Paymaster General, less. Mr Brown and his Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, have stuck rigidly to one thing they inherited from Mr Clarke and that is his last set of Red Book forecasts showing a continuing decline in the capital hudget and a rising curve of PFI projects. So much for the pretence that the PFI was ever going to be anything other than an excuse for substituting public money with private

The abolition of the universal testing rule nevertheless makes sense. The PFI was hecoming so cluttered that deserving cases, such as hospital projects, were in danger of dying before they got out of the waiting

By keeping the choke collar in place around the capital budget, the Paymaster General has left Whitehall with an incentive to dream up more PFI projects. The problem he is left with, however, is finding a mechanism to sort the wheat from the chaff. Mr Robinson has asked Malcolm Bates, a one-time member of Harold Wilson's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation (remember that?) to come up with the solution. All contributions will be gratefully received, particularly since Mr Bates has heen asked to report back in just a month.

Labour acts quickly to change PFI review rules

Michael Harrison

The Government yesterday launched a lightning review of the Private Finance Initiative and, as a first step, scrapped the rule that all Whitehall spending projects have to he tested against the PFI before being allowed to proceed.

The review will be conducted by Macolm Bates, chairman of Premier Farnell and the insurance group Pearl, who has been asked to report back to the Pay- for clogging up the system and master, General Geoffrey delaying approval for important leaders have welcomed the announcement.

the review would he to see how should be exempted from this the PFI could best be stream- particular requirement. lined and what obstacles there were to bringing projects to fruition.

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In the meantime, he said he was kicking over the first obstacle by ending the requirement for universal testing of projects against the PFI. However, Mr Robinson said this did not mean that government departments should expect any increase in their own budgets for

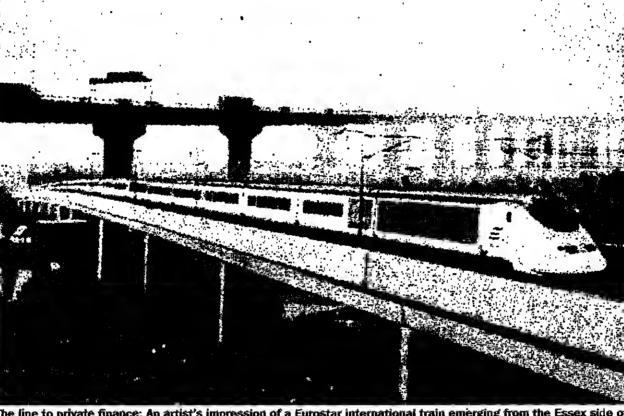
capital projects. Labour is sticking to the capital spending controls it inherited from the Conservatives which show a £3hn decline in capital hudgets by the end of the decade.

The universal testing rule was introduced two years ago by the former Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, in an attempt to kickstart the initiative. Since then, however, it has been widely criticised, oot least by the Confederation of British Industry. health field.

The CBI recommended that Mr Robinson said the aim of projects costing less than £10m

Mr Robinson said the rule was "a recipe for frustration and delay and works against the concept of prioritisation which we want to build into the process".

So far £11hn worth of contracts have been given the goahead under the PFI although a large proportion of that total is accounted for by a handful of projects such as the £3.5bn Channel Tunnel rail link. More



The line to private finance: An artist's impression of a Eurostar international train emerging from the Essex side of the tunnel to be built under the Thames as part of the Channel Tunnel rail link, which has won £3.5bn of PFI funding

than 1,400 projects have been identified by Whitehall departments as PFI candidates. However, only about 10 per cent of these involve investment of more than £10m.

The review will examine the role that could best be played by a new public-private sector taskforce working within the Treasury and reporting direct to the Paymaster General. It will also examine the effectiveness

of the Private Finance Panel, the partmental "wish lists" apfull-time body set up to administer the PFI, and what "generic obstacles" to progress there are.

In its Business Manifesto, Labour set out a 12-point plan for reforming the PFI. Under this, deals already signed would be allowed to proceed but every other potential partnership would be subjected to more rigorous appraisal to avoid long de-

Labour also pledged to draw up new guidelines on tendering for partnership projects in con-sultation with the National Audit Office and the Audit Commission.

The CBI welcomed Mr Rohinson's announcement. Charles Cox, chairman of its public procurement and efficiency committee, said: "The

abolition of universal testing is a major policy leap for the PFI. We are pleased that the Govcrament has accepted that not all projects are PFI-able. Now the Government must set realistic PFI targets and adequate

capital budgets. Mr Bates was until recently a director of the Private Finance Panel and was deputy manag-ing director of GEC for 12 years until March this year.

NAPF warns Brown over tax credits

The National Association of Pension Funds expressed "deep concern" yesterday at the widely held belief that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was planning to reduce or abolish the tax advantages enjoyed by pension funds.

Speaking at the association's annual conference in Harrogate, Ann Rohinson, the NAPF's director general, warned the Government that an assault oo the advance corporatioo tax (ACT) credit that institutions currently claim back from the Treasury would be "ill advised - a serious mistake."

The NAPF is concerned that, having promised not to raise individual income tax rates, the ceot, raising around £1ho. attack the corporate sector to plug the gaps in the public finances. It is thought the Government might view the investing institutions as a more palatable target than the companies it strenuously wooed in

the run-up to the election. Currently pension funds and other tax-exempt investors receive dividends on which the company has already paid advance corporation tax at a rate of 20 per cent. The funds are able to claim this tax back from the government while the company offsets its advance pay-

ment against subsequent mainstream corporation tax bills, resulting in an overall reduction in the amount of tax collected by the government.

It is a system the NAPF defends because it argues tax is paid on the funds later when pensions are actually drawn by individual pensioners. According to Ms Rohinson, "Imposing a tax on dividends to pensioo funds has the effect of imposing double taxation on individuals.

The cost to the government of returning tax to gross funds is estimated at up to £4bn a year, making it an obvious target for a revenue-hungry government. Four years ago, Norman Lam-ont reduced the rate at which advanced corporation tax was paid (and refunded) from 25 per

The NAPF argues that ishing or reducing the rebate might be self-defeating because it would mean profitable companies had to divert more of their retained profits into their pension funds to maintain their ability to pay promised pensions. This would lessen the apparent tax benefit to the government by reducing the amount of mainstream corporation tax it could raise from husinesses.

Another side effect might be a reduction in the pension fund revenues of local authorities and other public sector employers. Comment, page 23

ERM rumour trips up sterling

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The pound fell to its lowest level for several weeks yesterday after speculation that the Government planned to take Britain back into the exchange rate mechanism at a rate of DM2.50 briefly swept the currency market.

The Treasury denied the rumour, and investors later in his first week in office." He bought sterling at the lower level. But its exchange rate against the German mark ended nearly 4 pfennigs lower at just under DM2.77 last night. The Government has no in-

tention of joining the ERM," a Treasury official said firmly.

rumour was the ideal way of get-ting the pound down from its re-cent, uncomfortable heights. Others said that after this week's surprise announcement about

the Bank of England's independence anything was possible.
But Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Citibank, said: No new Chancellor wants to be faced with a slide in the currency pointed out that the fall yesterday was exaggerated by the fact that most of it took place overnight in New York, where

trading in sterling is light. Alison Cottrell, an analyst at Paine Webber, said: "This kind of speculation was to be ex-Some City conspiracy theo-pected. The pound is the last

- UK BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES -

is any scope for it."

Some analysts said that it was plausible that the new Government would want to take Britain back into the exchange rate mechanism, in the new spirit of co-operation with the

But they saw the British presidency of the European Union in the first half of 1998 as the more likely occasion, especial-ly as the Chancellor has all but ruled out British membership of the single currency in the first

Although the ERM rumour was the focus of attention, the pound's welcome weakness yesterday was probably due at least as much to a decline in the Broking.

rists said the unattributed European currency where there US dollar. It dived against the Diane Coyle ven following strong indicayen following strong indica-tions that the Japanese authorities will not let the yen fall

any further.

The US currency dropped below ¥124 for the first time in a month, compared with its 1 May high of ¥127.50. Eisuke Sakakibara, a Ministry

of Finance official, said yesterday he could foresee the dollar falling to ¥103. It is very unusual for Japanese officials to make such an explicit comment.

"Mr Sakakibara's willingness to depart from the conventions is an indication of how serious the Japanese authorities now are," said Stephen Lewis, chief economist at London Bond

The national shopping spree gathered pace last month, with the volume of sales on the high street expanding at the fastest pace since November.

The results of the Confederation of British Industry's monthly survey backed Gordon Brown's decision to raise interest rates by a quarter-point earlier this week, despite a subdued industrial performance. City experts said yesterday that the economy was still expanding fast enough to require further action, whether through tax or interest rate increases.

This will keep up the pres-sure for further tightening of

monetary or fiscal policy in coming months," said Michael Saunders at Salomon Brothers. Industry is keen for taxes to take the strain for fear higher interest rates will keep the pound

strong. British Steel, one of the comstrengthening, yesterday warned that it was putting 8.5 million jobs at risk

In a briefing note sent to min-isters and MPs in steel constituencies, its chairman, Sir Brian Moffat, called on the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to introduce measures that would help bring sterling down to n "sustainable level" of DM2.40-

DM2.50.

needed to be changed urgently. If sterling remained at current levels, the deterioration in the competitiveness of the UK

High street spree gathers pace

economy would accelerate.

British Steel repeated the panies hardest hit by sterling's call by the CBI for a balanced approach to inflation, using both interest rates and fiscal measures aimed at those sectors of the economy where inflationary pressures were evident.

Separately, industrial conglomerate BTR became the latest victim of the pound, warning exchange rates had knocked £35m off operating profits in the first half of the year.

Highlighting the contrasting The note says that the UK's fortunes of exporters and con-

policy of controlling inflation sumers, the CBI reported in its largely through interest rates distributive trades survey yesterday that the annual rate of increase in retail sales volumes in April was the highest since November, and expected to

continue into May.

The halance of retailers reporting sales volumes higher rather than lower than a year ago was 42 per cent, up from 33 per cent in March and 32 per cent a year earlier.

The sharpest rises were in furniture and carpets, and clothing. with footwear sales also strong Motor traders also reported an increase in annual sales volumes, confounding downbeat expectations after a drop in

March. BTR profit warning, page 24

BECAUSE WITH DIRECT DEBIT BILLS CAN BE SPREAD AND IF AN AMOUNT OR DATE OF A DD SHOULD EVER CHANGE, YOU'LL BE NOTIFIED WELL IN ADVANCE.

DIRECT Debit

DD YOUR DOUGH

£1.5bn wiped off BTR shares after warning

Magnus Grimond

BTR, the engineering to packaging conglomerate, yesterday saw £1.5bn knocked off its market value after shattering in-vesiors' confidence with its fourth profit warning in three years. The group, which lan Strachan, the new chief executive, has been struggling to revitalise since the beginning of last year, said the effect of sterling's strength in the first half would be to wipe £35m from operating profits.

Although he said the impact would be lessened in the second six months of the year, be warned that the group's problems extended beyond currency to economic problems around the world, particularly in Germany and Australia which ac-

count for 30 per cent of sales. Analysts immediately slashed profit forecasts for the current year by 10-15 per cent and the

shares slumped 36.5p to close at 231p. Further pressure was piled on the stock as it became clear that one large investor had unloaded 80 million shares at well below the market price.

SBC Warburg is thought to have handled the placing in a bought deal, buying the stake at 215p a share and selling on at 219p. The bank refused to comment, other than to say it had been a two-way trader in the stock yesterday.

Geoff Allum, a conglomerates analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbrokers, described the latest news as "pretty awful". He has sliced a tenth from his previous profits forecast, leaving a pre-tax fig-ure of £1.22bn for this year, and said the market had previously been prepared to give BTR the benefit of the doubt. The burden of proof had shifted to the company. "The market will now expect the worst."

Pressure: Ian Strachan says problems extend beyond currency to struggling economies the company's annual meeting yesterday, Mr Strachan maintained that the restructuring strategy unveiled last year remained on track. The divestment programme was 80 per

atructuring projects were being

cent complete, acquisitions

were in hand and over 50 re-

Addressing shareholders at that the underlying perfor- Europe. Underlying sales, exmance of the group's continusteadily as our strategy is implemented, and that attractive returns will be generated in the

BTR said its warning was based on trading in the first four months of the year, with the dif-"It is ... my firm expectation spill over into the rest of Germany and Australia.

cluding currency effects, will be ahead in the first half, although operating profits will fall, with performance picking up again in the second half of 1997.

Parts of the automotive, power drives and process control equipment were among businesses mentioned as being ficulties in Germany likely to affected by the problems in

Body Shop plans ad blitz to lift UK sales

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Body Shop International, the campaigning toiletries retailer. will launch its first really big UK. advertising campaign later this year. It will be designed to boost sales of planned new product launches and help lift UK sales which have been poor.

Body Shop bas typically spurned the use of advertising in favour of campaigning pub-licity initiatives often led by

Lourho sold its South African

Corporation, yesterday to the

country's higgest producer. Illovo Sugar, for £223.4m. The

1.6m rand cash payment was so

hig that it drove the rand down

to its lowest levels in two

The sale is a key step for

Lonrho in its drive to sell off

unwanted husinesses and

demerge into two companies,

one focused on mining and the

other on African trading

husinesses that include car

distribution and property

A Lonrho spokesman said

yesterday that the deal would

cut the company's debt hurden

by 40 per cent and give Nicholas

Morrell, chief executive, valu-

able hreathing space in his

demerger programme, which he

aims to have under way hy the

The spokesman said the deal

would also buy time for the

company in its attempts to sell

its Princess hotels division at as

good a price as possible. Lonrho's shares rose 2p to

137.5p following yesterday's

Mr Morrell himself said:

The disposal of our sbare-

holding in Lonrho Sugar

Corporation represents a

months.

year end.

subsiciary, Lourdo Sug

the group's previous advertising moves have been relatively limited affairs, mostly in the United States where the company has

vestor relations, said: "It won't he a huge television campaign with slots during News at Ten.

It will mostly be a print campaign." She declined to put a value on the move.

The announcement came as

Lonrho sugar sale

triggers fall in rand

Nicholas Morrell: Wants to

get the demerger under way

further important step in realising the inherent value of

Lonrho's husinesses and

reducing group debt while

further enhancing the compet-itive position of LSC through its

Illovo said the acquisition of

Lonrbo's 94.25 per cent stake

in Lonrho Sugar, which owns plantations in Swaziland, South

Africa, Mauritius and Malawi,

would give it access to lower-

cost production in sub-Saharan

"Lonrho Sugar is a globally

merger with Illovo."

its had been hit by a beavy charge for re-structuring its

also been struggling.

Angela Bawtree, head of in-

struggling French operation.
The company has taken a

£6.5m charge related to the business which has been battling against weak demand and high rental costs. The write-off will cover loans to the bead franchise operator and the company is seeking a new franchisee. "The stores were affected by

the bombs of last year and Body Shop disappointed the sales didn't recover." says Ms City with poor sales figures Bawtree. The franchisee was and news that last year's prof- not in a position to invest fur-

competitive, low-cost produc-

spread of assets," said Don

MacLeod, Illovo's managing

The company's attractions

include cheap labour costs,

high yields from its soil quali-

ty and irrigation network and

spreads weather risks over a

geographic range that

The deal, which ends months

of speculation about the future

of Lourho's sugar business,

will create Africa's higgest

sugar group with interests

ranging across southern and

Lomho Sugar is listed on the

Jobannesburg Stock Exchange and the Swaziland Stock

Market. In the year to 31 March

1996, Lourho Sugar made pre-tax profits of £27.8m on

turnover of £99.6m. It bad

shareholder's funds of £66.2m

Minority sharebolders will be offered 13.90 rand in cash per

share and will also be entitled

Lonrho Sugar shares, which

are only infrequently dealt, last

traded at 16.20 rand on Mon-

day. The stock has risen from

12,60 rand since Lonrho Sugar

flagged that it was in takeover

director.

large area.

east Africa.

at the year end.

to the final dividend.

talks in February.

ther. We didn't want to take the stores over as we feel they should be run by a French operator. We are in talks with various potential replacements."

The shares fell 2p to 188.5p as analysts digested a 2 per cent fall in like-for-like sales in current trading across the group. Though the British stores are showing 3 per cent growth after a flat period last year, sales in the US are 4 per cent lower. The company appointed a new US chief executive last September and bas been im-

proving its product packaging and stores to suit an American audience, "We knew it was going to take time but we are confident we are moving in the right direction," Ms Bawtree said.

Group profits, excluding exceptional items, were 17 per cent higher at £38.2m in the year to 1 March. The dividend has been increased by 38 per cent to 4.7p a share, in line with the company's plans to adopt a progressive policy on the payout. The company also has £25.2m of net casb.

IN BRIEF

Midland set to buy Echo Press

been "promising" with advertising revenue up and the cost of newsprint down. He said the group was committed to a three-point strategy to deliver henefits to shareholders - expanding the newspaper division by acquisition and by launching more titles; adding to the range of specialist magazines and exhibitions; and developing new media services. He said Echo Press published the Loughborough Echo, a weekly paid-for newspaper, and six associated titles which complemented the group's Midlands franchise.

Romtec profits increase

Romtee announced a increase in annual pre-tax profits from £257,000 to £326,000, accompanied by a 1.5p dividend. Russ Nathan, chairman, said: "The company's intention is to continue specialising in the IT and telecoms sector. This market has enabled rapid growth to he achieved and continues to offer scope for continuing growth both in our range of products and services and in geographic coverage." Last year overseas turnover increased by 37 per cent to £1.6m. Exports now account for 34 per cent of revenues, compared with 31 per cent in the previous year.

Rentokil sells cranes division for £8m

Rentokil Initial has sold the large cranes division of its ex-BET sub-

Lynx interims rise to £3.7m

Lynx Holdings increased taxable profits from £2.07m to £3.71m in the half-year to 31 March. The interim dividend rises from 0.45p to 0.5p. Roger Pinnington, chairman, said: "The investments we bave made in existing products and services and in selected acquisitions provides Lynx with significant growth opportunities". The full benefits of the merger to form Sphinx CST would not be seen until the next financial year. The mortgage and personal lending systems company had a quiet start to the year due to a sbortfall in new licence sales, but prospects have increased.

Midland Independent Newspapers plans to acquire Echo Press for £3.7m. In his address to the annual general meeting, Sir Norman Fowler, chairman, said that group trading in the first quarter had

sidiary, Grayston White and Sparrow, to Sarens of Belgium, for £8m. The deal includes the sale of four large cranes and the transfer of 25 operating personnel. It has an annual turnover of £4m and net tangible assets of £6m. Profit on the sale will be £600,000.

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND Kwik Save feeling

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

heat in kitchen as store sales crumble

they up and get even worse. Britain's biggest discount supermarket insisted eration, but it is worth pointsix months ago that this was not a business on its knees, despite the announcement of market share. Kwik Save is not huge job losses, store closures the only one feeling the beat. and a collapse in profits. Man-agement insisted then, as now, that Kwik Save's squeezed market position, between the also struggling to build sales hig four superstore chains and and have been concentrating hig four superstore chains and the Continental "bard" discounters is not untenable. Investors must soon start to seriously question if any of these claims are true.

Yesterday's disguised profits warning contained enough signs to suggest that this is a business in long-term decline. And the shares fell another

17p to 291p.
The main worry is that the group's sales seem to be crumbling. Same-store sales fell hy 1.6 per cent in the first half, but have nose-dived by 6 per cent in the seven weeks since the period end in mid-March. Managemem blames a third of comparison with a strong period in the previous year, when sales were boosted by the price war on commodity items, still leaves a 4 per cent real

Other indicators are equally Raine worrying. Customer numbers 22.4p. fell by 3 per cent on last year. The average value of transac-tions declined by a similar amount, Kwik Save's punchy Australian chief executive. Graeme Bowler, points to a 1 per cent increase in margins as evidence that competitive pressure is easing and man-agement is taking a firm grip on theft and waste. But in the long run the City is less interested in margins and more in

building the sales line. Kwik Save is making much of the launch of its own-brand range last month, with 150 more lines to come. This is a welcome move hut, again, is than driving sales.

Mr Bowler has nailed his colours to the mast with a stated aim of pushing the sales figures into, at worst, neutral and, with luck, positive territory by the year-end.

Managers do not usually make promises unless they are fairly certain of being able

ust when things look re-ally bad for Kwik Save, come back to haunt him.

There ought to be a place in ing out that as the hig four The other division two players, such as Somerfield, iceland and William Morrison, are instead on margin growth.

Assuming analysts' fore-casts of £72m for the full year are met, Kwik Save shares trade on a lowly forward rat-ing of 10. But they should still

McAlpine deal raises doubts

Ifred McAlpine, the construction group, yes-Lerday put investors out of their misery by unveiling the £42m terms of its takeover of Raine, its much troubled rival. the fall on an unflattering The reaction was predictably negative, with McAlpine's shares slumping 13.5p to 153.5p after it accompanied the announcement with news which cut the price of haked of a two-for-seven rights call beans to 3p a can. Even so, that at 142p to raise £28.9m. McAlpine is offering 0.146 of its own shares for every one in Raine, valuing the latter at

> The agreed deal, revealed last month, has plenty of in-dustrial logic. The combination

of the two groups' social bousing businesses will create a marketleaders, delivering something like 1,400 units a year. That should be a growth business if Labour fulfils its pledge to revitalise the sector.

But the takeover hangs or falls on what the management makes of private housebuilding, which forms the backbone of both businesses. there slumped 20 per cent to Although McAlpine's profits £9.1m on turnover of £187m last year, the group should be capable of turning in margins of at least 10 per cent, based on the performance of better placed rivals. McAlpine's housebuilding side and Raine's Hassall Homes should give combined turnover of around £320m, suggesting underlying profits of at least f30m are in sight, more than

double the 1996 figure. The McAlpine management will get a fair wind from merger savings. Up to 200 jobs could go at Raine after the closure of four overlapping housing offices and the group head office. Analysts guess the : potential savings could be as much as £6m.

But Raine is in effect being bought from its hankers, following a bail out in 1995. and McAlpine sharebolders are still smarting from the last rights in 1994 at 205p a share. the group can achieve £30m, the shares stand on a forward p/e of 9, but the management bas a lot to prove.

Breweries, P.25 & R.

Materials

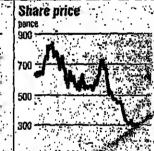
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Kwik Save: At a glance

Market value: £452.7m, share price 291p Trading record 1994 1995 1996 1996 1997 Turnover (Ebn) 200 299 7329 1708

135.6 125.5 2.8 44.2 40.7.I Pre-tax profits (£m) Earnings per share (p) 57.29 51.68 14.61 18.25 1 30.00 1 Dividends per share (p) 19.25 20.0 20.0 5.95 5.95

Profit per employee 900 --



Don't miss out on Oxford rights issue

xford Molecular is a slightly different an-imal from the usual hiotechnology hope-ful, given its concentration on producing the specialist computer software necessary to handle the massive amounts of data required to develop drugs nowadays. This \$1bn market is growing fast, given the increasing inability of paper-based systems to cope and the added kicker provided by the relentless drive for efficiencies and speedier methods of drug discovery.

Oxford's success is underlined by two agreements with Glazo Wellcome for the use and development of its Comms Manager basic software or "architecture" - to which was added yesterday a one-year deal with Astra Arcus, an offshoot of Astra, the Swedish drugs giant. The beauty of the agreement is that while Oxford gains access to Astra's buge resources, it retains the rights to any new software which

emerges from the project. Arguably less welcome for shareholders was

news of yet another cash-raising to fund acquisitions, the latest in a string since the group floated at 80p a share three years ago. The one-for-seven rights at 360p a sbare will raise £30.4m to meet the \$22.5m (£13.9m) cost of acquiring Genetics Computer and MLR Automation, two US pharmaceutical software companies. Unlike Oxford, which yesterday reported 1996 losses halved to £1.85m, both the

companies heing picked up are profitable. Genetics Computer, for which \$20m is being paid, is described by Oxford as the pioneer of the use of computers in analysing the genetic map of man. Its Wisconsin Package suite of computer programmes, to be merged with Oxford's recently launched Omiga product, is used by over 30,000 researchers, the company believes. MLR's CSAP software package has been distributed by Oxford since last year. Oxford will have £25m cash after the latest deals. With shares down just op at 402.5, investors should climb in.

Bre-X president alleges fraud

erals gold mining scandal, the company's president, David Walsh, yesterday filed a fraud complaint with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a spokeswoman for the police said. The move follows the delisting from the Toronio exchange of the shares, which lost nearly all their value after trading was

restarted earlier this week. Following a report by auditor Strathcona Mineral Services branding Bre-X's claim to the world's higgest gold mine a scam, Mr Walsh handed a letter alleging a fraud to members of

Ayma Rubber (i)

Bedy Shop Intal (F)

lerdet Green (I)

MMT Computing (I)

Stientwight Hildgs (F)

In a new twist to the Bre-X Min- the RCMP's commercial crime unit. No suspects were identified in the letter. Bre-X company officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

The filing of the complaint is the latest development in what has been described as "the world's biggest mining scam", in-volving the fabrication of test data at a secret Borneo laboratory, the unexplained death of a Bre-X geologist after a fall from a helicopter and evidence that senior directors made fortunes from share sales last year at the beight of the shares' popularity. Bre-X shares lost 80 per cent

Borneo.

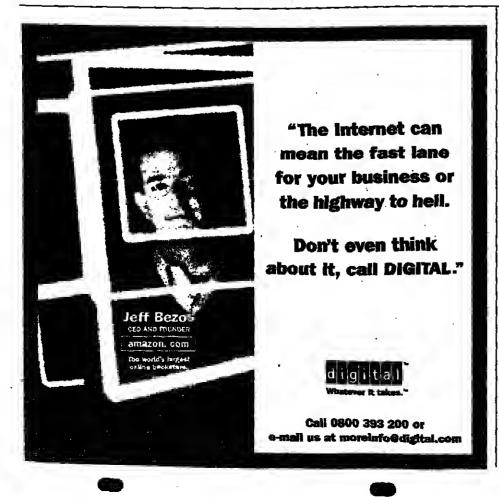
| Ternover £ | Pre-tax £ | EPS | Dividend |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 66 m (172m) | 15.6m (10.2m) | 42.5p (24p) | 6 15p (5.75p) |
| 271m (257m) | 31.7m (32.7m) | 9.2p (9.6p) | 4.7p (3.4p) |
| 14.0m (12.0m) | -1.83m (-3.02m) | -4.1p (-17.7p) | (吨) |
| 15.0m (7.6m) | 0.20m (-0.62m) | 1 3p (-S.7p) | Ω# (-) |
| 53.9m (38.1m) | 3.71m (2.07m) | 2.58p (1.73p) | 0 5p (0.45p) |
| 10.7m (8.2m) | 2.42m (2.37m) | 13.30 (13p) | 3.6p (2.7p) |
| 0.33m (0.25m) | -1 13m (-0.29m) | -4.2p (-1.4p) | 118 (-) |
| 4.7m (3.7m) | 0.33m (0.28m) | 4.3p (3.6p) | 1.5p (-) |
| 212m (190m) | 14.3m (11.1m) | 21 55p (17.84p) | 10.85 (60) |
| S.7m (5.9m) | 0.77m (0.82m) | 4.7p (5p) | 1 7p (1.6p) |
| 14.0m (11.8m) | 1.30m (1.26m) | 11 28p (10.94p) | 5p (Sp) |
| (N) - Nine months | | | |

company's partners, Freeport-McMoran, said its own tests had found "insignificant" quanti-ties of gold at the Busang mine in the jungles of Indonesian Records of the Ontario Securities Commission showed that Mr Walsh sold 300,000 shares at an average price of around C\$25 between April

riod in March after one of the

and September 1996, netting about C\$7.5m (£3.3m). In all, directors and their families cashed in shares worth more than C\$100m.





IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF INCEPTA GROUP PLC

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 21st April 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company from £29.654.011 to £28.162.024. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard by Mr Registrar Buckley, at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WCIA 211. on Wednesday 21st May 1997.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company destring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same. Dated 6th May 1997

Wedlake Bell. 16 Bedford Street. Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HF Tel: 017)-395 3000 Fax: 0173-836 7361 Ref; LSB/49249/15406

Bed maker profits rise and shine

Silentnight Holdings, the bed manufacturer, saw profits rise by 29 per cent to £14.3m last year hoosted by strong sales in its core UK market and its growing business in the United States. The shares rose 10 per cent to 328p on the news. Bill Simpson, chief executive,

said: "It is the group's continued aim to maintain its strong position in the UK bed market, to grow its sbare of the UK cabinet market and to grow its bed husiness in North America both organically and by acquisition when suitable opportunities present themselves. He added that he expected a

more normal rate of sales growth in the hed market this year whilst the company had planned for further growth in the cabinet husiness. Group sales rose from £189m

to £212m in the year to 1 Feb-

ruary. The dividend was increased by 25 per cent to 10p a



Sticking with ex-mutual benefits smarter investors

The "smarter investor" stayed with Alliance & Leicester when the former building society became a bank. Their shares, which opcoed at 542p nearly three weeks ago, yesterday reached 626.5p with a 41p

The 600,000 members who elected to sell their entitlement through auctions organised by stockbroker Cazenove collected 533.7p a share.

During its stock market life A&L has only briefly been below the auction price when it touched 533p. The share performance bas made nonsense of most of the

forecasts drifting around in the weeks before the flotation. In the few days ahead of the debut opinion hardened with

price paid was believed to be 575p.

The rip roaring A&L success is due to the headlong bull market in general and the money share boom in particular. Banks, insurance companies and anything with a financial inclination has become bot property as fund managers strive to adjust their portfolio

financial sector. They need to build their boldings in the likes of A&L and the other converters, Halifax and so on, from a zero base. In the meantime, they have to settle for greater exposure by buying into existing

weightings to the exploding

quoted companies.
Their problem is underlined by Abbey National, where pri-

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

eral Accident were others in

Stories persist Halifax innext month. One possible target is seen as Norwich Union, the insurance group due to float a few weeks afterwards.

to 602.5p. HSBC led the bank-ing pack with a 91p surge to 1,795p; National Westminster, Standard Chartered and Gen-standard Chartered and Genand third liners drifted with the

FTSE 250 index off 8.6 points. J Sainsbury, the superstores tends to use its quoted muscle chain, continued to prosper for bids soon after it arrives from hopes its profit decline had been arrested; it was also helped by stories of a meat tie-up with Marks & Spencer. A Sainsbury float a few weeks afterwards.
Financials were a large factor behind another upbeat and then said: "We never com-

sell under a joint brand name through specially created departments in their stores. Sainsbury rose 11p to 360p; Marks firmed to 505.5p.

BTR was the day's casualty, crashing 36.5p to 231p following its profit warning. A big deal, thought to be by SBC Warburg, increased the discomfort. Warburg is thought to have sold around 80 million shares at 219p, having picked shares at 219p, having picked them up at 215.5p.

MEPC, the property group, added 18.5p to 493p on Hammerson bid stories but British Land gave ground on rights issue fears. Storehouse continued to encounter the alleged wall of negative sentiment, off 1p to 208.5p, a low. United News & Media's at-

Cable & Wireless put on 5p to 501.5p; Hong Kong Telecom results were encouraging but the company remained sileot about its future HKT rela-

tionship.

Railtrack jumped 20p to 447.5p; the second instalment of 190p is due next month. Stagecoach advanced 19.5p to 618.5p as its South West Trains off-shoot escaped further penalties.

Aston Villa continued to

Taking Stock

Petra Diamonds lost a little Instre although the signalled trading statement suggested a significant discovery. Its

Northern Cape Province
prospect in South Africa has
produced stones representing
30.81 carats per 100 tonnes, a
particularly high yield. Other
finds are expected. The shares fell 7p to 57.5p against last week's 30p placing.

[]Ask Central, the latest restaurant venture of the Kaye family (Golden Egg and Garfunkels) gained 22.5p to 217.5p. It is expected to double profits to £1.4m this year. The company, raising £5.3m through a rights issue is val. through a rights issue, is val-ued at £1.75m per restaurant; PizzaExpress is at £3.2m.

| debut opinion hardened with estimates of the opening price stretching to 540p. The shares of the unlucky 600,000 were parcelled up and sold through auction to institutional investors. The highest | to vate investors still have around half the capital eight years after conversion. Abbey shares stretched to a new peak of 884.5p. up 36p. lower in the water but a lower b | totsie ment on rumours." K of However, according to market sources, the two retail giants plan a joint operation to re-established the appeal of | ing from bold to sell, fell 5.5p | find the going soggy, falling 120p to 950p against an 1,100p placing. Pan Andean Re- sources lost 14p to 34.5p on the seeming break down in its re- | Jordec, the nuclear decomisioner, produced interims 2204,000 and could make 500,000 this year with £1m ext. The shares are 51.5p. |
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Minister plugs in to power row

In the first of a series of articles on Labour, business and the City, Chris Godsmark asks what the new Government means for utility regulation

John Battle, the new Energy and Science Minister, yesterday beld his first talks with the two energy regulators with the delicate question of whether to delay the start of domestic power and gas competition understood to be high on the agenda.

No details were given of the meetings with Clare Spottiswoode, gas industry regulator or her electricity counterpart, Professor Stephen Littlechild. Yet the relationship between government and the regulators, something the Conservatives deliberately kept unclear, is threatening to become one of Mr Battle's biggest headaches.

The DTI may not be the highest-profile department during Labour's storm into office. but the seemingly arcane technicalities of electricity competition represent not only one of the most pressing issues on its agenda but threaten to undermine the drive to put consumer interests above those of shareholders - something Mr Battle described as a "priority" just

hours after being given the job. Dieter Helm, energy expert and head of the Oxera consultancy group explained: "I think John has to act very quickly. The easy option is to muddle through, but by then it could be too late to avoid chaos. Everyone knows domestic power competition will be delayed. It's a question of whether he can

take difficult decisions." Several regional electricity companies (RECs) have so far requested talks with Mr Battle with the thinly disguised aim of postponing competition, which on Professor Littlechild's timetable would roll-out between April and September next year. Privately, several RECs believes the process is hopelessly tight, although publicly no company has said it would fail to meet the deadline.

The difficulty has been the lack of co-ordination between the 14 power companies involved; 12 RECs and the two Scottish suppliers. They must all produce complex new computer systems which can talk to each other and track customers as they switch supplier. If these fail experts predict huge billing problems as households disappear from the systems. Estimates of the cost of introducing compention range from £500m to £lhn.

On the other side the Electricity Consumers' Committees, independent bodies which represent customers interests, are stepping up their demands to keep to the existing deadline. Yvonne Constance, chairman of the committees, yesterday wrote to Mr Battle urging that customers should get the benefits of competition on time. She said: "We are aware the RECs were lobbying before and after the election. However, there is useful progress on the computer systems and there is nothing to be gained by removing the pressure to deliver. Any delay accepted now will let the momentum go out of the system."

The answer, according to Mr Helm, is for Mr Battle to announce a fundamental review of competition, which would take several weeks. "A lot of costs are being committed here for a timetable which may never hap-pen. The policy needs to be bold and well thought out. It's not a big task to have a complete re-

view, it's just unpalatable." Yet delaying competition would almost certainly bring Mr Battle into conflict with Professor Littlechild, who has repeatedly defended his role in the project. A similar move to put back the further opening up of the gas market, planned to hit Scotland and the North-east of England this October, would sour relations with Ms Spottis-



Fresh brief: John Battle, the minister, has already met gas and electricity regulators

woode, who before the election made clear her doubts about the windfall utility tax.

Labour has suggested it may merge the gas and electricity watchdogs into one department, though Mr Helm said the outcome may be less radical. "I don't think he will replace the current regulators when their contracts expire."

One thing Mr Battle has no shortage of is advice. One of his first moves was to approach Dan Corry to become a full-time paid adviser. Mr Corry, from the leftleaning think tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research, is a general utility reforms is un-

well-known critic of the present system of utility regulation and of price regimes which serve up ndfall gains for investors.

Mr Corry's role could, according to some observers, point to a much bigger transformation of utility regulation than anything Labour suggested in opposition. The manifesto was fairly weakened and didn't say too much. We've got to look at changes to make regulation more accountable so its quite

open at the moment," he said. Labour's determination to push abead with these more

clear. Dieter Helm argues Mi Battle may prefer to concentrate on tightening the firms' social obligations. "He may look at a social levy to meet these ohligations such as cutting disconnections or preventing price

differentials between regions." If Mr Battle successfully grasps the nettle on competition and maintains reasonable relations with the regulators, he could win valuable space for a fundamental review. Yet the risks are buge. If he fails, his credibility and that of Labour's beefed up DTI could be severely

Is Beckett trapped by a presidential precedent?

Roll this one round your mouth: "President Margaret." No no, calm down, I'm not talking about Thatch. I'm re-

ferring to whether Margaret Beckett will be tempted to hang on to at least one of the "trappings of power" from the previous administration; that is, the title: "President of the Board of Trade." This was, of course,

Michael Heseltine's creation. Apparently, when asked this week by an underling for her thoughts on the matter. Ms Beckett merely reacted with a "quizzical look". We wait with bated breath

to see whether or not this particular trapping proves too enticing to discard.

Yet another example of New Labour getting off to a running start - Ken Clarke's pet project, the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) is to get a

thorough overhaul.

The original idea of bringing in private money to public projects has sunk in a swamp of accounting technicalities and confusion. The man to oversee Labour's review of PFI is Geoffrey Robinson MP. ex-managing director of Jaguar and the Treasury's new Paymaster General. The review will be carried

out by Malcolm Bates, who spent 12 years at GEC as deputy managing director, and is the new chairman of Premier Farnell, the electronic components maker.

Here comes the New abour bit: anyone wanting to make their views known to Mr Bates has only until the 13 June. So get cracking. And Mr Bates instructs people to keep their contributions short n'sharp: Keep them to two sides of

A4 if possible please." At this rate, they might actually get the PFI to work.

Before you get too sorry for the Tories, I am delighted to reveal that Norma Major's PR has a new job: spokeswoman for Cosmopolitan.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



How far will Margaret Beckett follow Heseltine?

Eileen Wise, Head of News at Conservative Central Office, has been appointed Director of Corporate Communications at The National Magazine Company.

I wonder whether this will set a precedent. Portillo for Loaded magazine, perhaps?

Picture the scene: John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, is having breakfast yesterday at the Grosvenor Hotel in London as a guest of the Irish Trade Board. On the same table are Peter Sutherland, newly elevated interim chairman of BP. Niall Fitzgerald. chief executive of Unilever, Christopher Haskins of Northern Foods - and Bob Geldof, creator of Live Aid and former Boomtown Rat.

Mr Bruton delivered a short speech about Irish-British trade, the success of the Irish economy and the prospects for peace in Northern Ireland. Sadly, my informants were unable to

overhear what was said. Apparently Sir Boh was looking well, considering his

1.7125

123.75

LIFFE SATURE

reputation as a late-night club-goer. He was there m his position as head of Planet 24, his media group. Mr Sutherland, nicknamed "Suds," was there in his capacity as chairman of Gold man Sachs International.

If for any reason Mr Sutherland doesn't have his interim status at BP ratified as a permanent chairman, how about Sir Bob? Altogether now, "Tell me: Why I don't like Mondays..."

One doesn't normally think of the Global Markets Economics team at Bankers' Trust as cutting social satirists, but so it appears?

The team's newsletter boasts a "World Exclusive" on the identities of the four outsiders who are due to be appointed to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). set up by Gordon Brown to

fix interest rates.

According to Peter Price, managing director, the mys-tery four are: Professor Sydney Trimmer, Polenta Professor of Stakeholding, University of Islington, best known for A neo-Keynesian approach to optimum resource allocation in a municipal library environment, Dr Victoria Harpy, Chair of the Social Market Aromatherapy Research Council, formerly leader of of Brent Council's Smash the fascist bosses anti-plutocrat support group"; Alfred "Alf" Stubbins, General Secretary. . . Amalgamated Union of Managerial, Technical, Educational, Syncopational, Scientological, Sanitation Workers and Allied Trades, and Baroness Edwina de Oddbins, who will "operate the Ouija Board".

Now why does something tell me Bankers' Trust isn't taking this committee

terrior as at Tue 7 May

John Willcock

Industrial Metals Foreign Exchange Rates Interest Rates Lifte Financial Futures 28-25 19-13 280-230 3-2 330-280 21-11 240-190 97-3 80-39 0-0 2-0 0-0 05140 38064 11257 844656 45153 08448 07515 45365 14685 23965 28458 7.03 6.75 2.56 7.74 5.77 5.68 所差過 Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option Cell/Put Total/vots 4650 566 42/113 76/130 93/147 Agricultural **Money Market Rates** Other Spot Rates Energy Brent Crude IPE 6.30pm Sterling 85.7000 0.3850 40.2897 26.3850 171.775 3.6406 575600 4470 27.7100 3.6731 171/173 Vot 78/80 **Tourist Rates** £ Buys Australia(Ooliars) Austria(Schalings Belgium(Francs) Canada(Ooliars) New Zealand(Doffers) 2,3000 Norway(Normer) 11,2500 Portugel(Escudos) 272,0000 Speln(Pescudos) 272,0000 Sweden(Normer) 12,2990 Sweden(Normer) 12,2990 Sweden(Normer) 2,2980 Turksy(Lins) 2,17070,0000 2,0230 19,0500 55,9000 2,1850 0,8060 1,0425 2704,0000 1,95,0000 0,6065 Calls cost 50p per minute. Latest Unit Trust Prices 56 44 40 11 40 81 40 81 738 57

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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"N Feeto

Royal end to a Flight of fancy

RICHARD EDMONDSON

reports from Chester

Just as the fairy story was about to be completed in the Ormonde Stakes yesterday, Royal Court ruined it by beating the old soldier Further Flight. It was rather like Prince Charming

marrying one of the ugly sisters. Further Flight's grey dappled figure is the sort you see in bedtime books and he seems so have been around since we were much vounger. The 11-year-old arrived for competition yesterday with 56 starts to his name, 22 of them victories. and the prospect of carrying his regular jockey, Michael Hills, 10 his 1,000th career success in Britain. The romantic scene

was set. If Further Flight was the good guy, the bad lad of the race was his stablemate Moonax. the 1994 St Leger winner. whose preferred diet is human flesh. There is a givenway clue that the chestnut is not the most pleasant of customers when he is escorted into the parade ring by his lass. Jowee Wallsgrave accomplished this duty yesterday wearing a body protector and

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heavily wadded arm guards. She looked like Wayne Gretzky. Moonax himself did not appear particularly cuddly. He slavered rabidly, sending saliva back over his mane, and refused to leave the paddock. Once he emerged on to a course fringed by a harlequin canopy of um-orellas the six-year-old displayed his dressage skills by

going into reverse. Darryll Holland eventually got him down to the start, where stallhandlers appeared to be drawing straws. Moonax was blindfolded and led into his stall, where he promptly squatted. This proved a cathartic act. however, and as soon as the gates opened Moonax behaved like a cherub.

: a

Election Day tugged the field along for much of the journey but there were figures moving much more smoothly in behind. Moonax looked dangerous off Flight, whose low head carriage eran succumb.

Chapple-Hyam, was formerly to the stage of the winners' en- lective heart got what it desired.

closure. Further Flight is a grand old horse and I'm sorry. 10 have beaten him even though I've not managed that before, he said. "I was assistant when he was two and three and he won the Ebor so I know what a grand old horse he is."

John Reid, the muddied winning jackey, bore the look you normally see in a colliery cage. He panied out his race report. "I was more or less pushing him for the whole of the race just to keep him in it, but you always know that when you put your foot down on the pedal he is going to pick up a hit," Reid said. "It wasn't easy. It was hard work

for him and me." While Reid feasted on earth the victorious owner was probably finishing off his digestif. Royal Court's victory complet-

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Cyrian (Nottingham 7.20) NB: Rymer's Rascal (Carlisle 3.40)

ed a clean sweep of the meet-

ing's major races for Robert Sangster, who had also won the Chester Vase (Panama City) and the Chester Cup (Top Cees). Sangster rarely seems to make had moves and his decision to forsake the atrocious weather of the Roodeve for London business meetings and a spot of lunch at Daphne's hardly looked calamitous either.

The mere mention of Further Flight is enough to reduce Barry Hills to tears and there was moisture in his eyes and a croak in his voice as he detailed his disappointment, "It would have been a fairytale if he had won because it would have been Michael's 1,000th winner and we all know how much that horse has helped his career," Hills snr said. "If he hadn't have been going as well as that he would probably have won. He has been a very good horse and

Hills could also make excuses for Jack The Ripper and was protective about the crazed Moonax. If you suggest the the final bend, but then Further horse might be calmed by testicle severance Burry agrees the suggests he might kick himself operation should go ahead but in the teeth, and Royal Court that the questioner should be settled down to light out the finish. Only close home did the vet- putting a half pair of blinkers on to make him concentrate in fu-The winner's trainer, Peter ture," he said. "He did take the piss out of everybody today assistant to Further Flight's but once he set off he ran a very handler. Barry Hills, and he genuine race. He's run his heart would have understood if hiss- out today." It was not an aftering had greeted his entrance on noon, however, when the col-

Reams Of Verse for York

promoted to the head of Oaks Willie Carson's career.

Henry Cecil, who has trained six betting at around 7-1. The John winners of the Musidora Stakes, will be represented by Reams Of confirmed encouraging gallop Verse in Tuesday's renewal. reports with a smooth win at As-Likely to start favourite, Reams cot last month, could be her Of Verse goes to York on the main rival. Ben Hanbury will back of a good sixth behind her saddle Messhed, who wintered stablemate Sleepytime in the in Dubai and who found infamy as the horse whose kick ended

CHESTER

2.10:1. BODFARIDISTINICTION (KFalon)
2.1 fav. 2. Demolition Jo 14-1; 3. Bo My
Wish 7-1. B ran. 6. 3. (A Belley, Terportey).
Total: £2.50; £1.50, £4.20. Duel Forecast. Total 12:30, 24:47.
2.40; 1. CRYSTAL HEARTED (A McGone)
9-2; 2. Barnum Sands 5-4 s.-tav; 3. Teodi)
10:5-4 s.-tav; 3. Teodi

Tage). Tota: £4.70. DF: £3.40. CSF: £9.05. Non Runner: Nusellad.

3.10: 1. ROYAL COURT U Reid) 9-4 fax.
2. Further Flight 20-1; 3. Moonate 13-2. 7 ran. 4, 7. P Chapte Hyam, Mantoni. Tota: 53.40: £2.00. £3.60. DF: £52.80. CSF: £44.65. Tno: £57.20. NRs: Ela-Aristologii, Walter Dota:

£3.40; £2.00, £3.50, NRs: Ela-Arsinicati, Water Post.

3.40; 1. SURPRISE MISSION (Dane O'Neill 11-2; 2. Selhurstpark Flyer S-1; 2. Bouden Rose 10-1, 9 ren. 7; 2 to 7 aden. 6, 4, (Mrs.) Ramsden, Thriski, Tote: £7.40; £2.30, £2.20, £4.00. DF: £40.00. CSF: £46.45, Tricast: £3.99, 42. Trac: £15.140.

4.18: 1. AUBERT THE BEAR (K Darley) 9-1; 2. Racobbleenceze 9-2 for: 3, Orange Place 9-1; 4, Gulf Shaedi 11-1, 18 ran. 3, 2. U Beary, Cockemann, Toter £7.20; £2.10, £1.60, £2.70. £3.00. DF: £15.70. CSF: £49.64, Threast: £367.52, Troc: £107.20. 4,468; 1. THE BUTTERWICK (KID (R Winston), Toter £6.10; £2.00, £1.40, £3.50. DF: £5.10, CSF: £18.55, Threast: £134.41, Troc: £3.510, NRF Gull Throttle. Dencing Caustier (B-1) was withdrawn not under orders; Rule 4 apties to all bets, deduction 100 in the pound, Jackpote not work. Pool of £5.497.34 carned to lungfield today.

Places 6: £713.55. Place 8: £296.00.

HAMILTON

HAMILTON

2.00: 1. IMPISH (Dale Gloson) 12-1; 2. Troplest Beach 11-2; 3. Ragtime Cowgrit * THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES DEDUIS 981 UNCRED 982 CABLIST 983 **SEDCEPHELD** NOTTENCHAM (E) 985 STRATFORD (E) 0891 261 970 Calls cost May per statemen. T.L.S., ple. Servicion SI ECA 47

RACING RESULTS 100-1. 11 ran. 3-1 fev Lord Sty. 8, %. (7 Ethenneton, Matton: Totae £17.60: £2.60, £2.50, £5.60. DF: £26.80. CSP: £67.77. Tri-

250, 25,00, Dr. 125,00, Corr. 201. 2,30: 1, VICE PRESIDENTIAL II Carolli 8-1: 2, Jacobs 20-1; 3, Sharp Cractor 5-4 Jr. to. 6 nm. 5-4 Jr. to Marrino's Boy (4th). 6, 1%, If Ethemgron, Mahon). Tobe: £15,00; £4,40, £5,50, Dr. £136,70, CSF, £122,14. 3,00: 1, GOLDEN HADEER (M Baind) 7-2; 3.00: 1. GOLDEN HOUSER (M Baild) 1-2.

2. Kintheri 7-1; 3. All 00 9-4 fav. 7 ran. 2.

5. IM Ryan, Newmarker). Total: £4.50; 11.90, £3.80, Dr. £11.90. CSF: £23.25. Treast: £55.31. NR: Cols Na Farraiga, After a stewards inquery, placings unalizated.

3.30: 1. CLIED UP (Mr A Earns) 7-1; 2.

3.30: 1. CILED IN (A SEARS). 1-1.2. Hotchies Ledy 5-2 Ear, 3. Rose On Your 12-1.9 ran., 4., 7. (P 0 Evene, Welshpool, Totas; 59.50: £2.00, £1.70, £3.30. DF: £14.10. CSF: £22.91. The Sear £187.45. That £53.80. 4.05: 1. ALEZAL (S Senders) 2-9 fav. 2. CSF: £22.91. Those: £187.46. Thu: £53.80. 4.05: 1. ALEZAI, 15 Sandier) 2-9 lav, 2. No Grousing 4-1; 3. Tipperary Summet 100-1. 4 ran. 18, 3, (W James, Newmarket), Total: £1.20. DF: £1.40. CSF: £1.30. 4.35: 1. SUM MARK (S Sandiers) 3-1; 2. Katimyn's Pet 10-11 fbr; 3. Str Clerks 7-1. 5 ran. 1-4, 3-5. Mr; A Swithark, Richmond). Total: £1.30: £1.10, £1.50. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.81.

15.35.
Placepot: £2.246.00. Quadpot: £18.90.
Place 6: £655.33. Place 6: £147.55.
SOUTHWELL
2.20: 1. SAM PEEB (D Weight: 20-1; 2.
Philosophic 6-4 tav; 3. Sheded 12-1; 4.
Boome Ville 8-1. 15 ran. 3, 2½. (R Fahey).
Tota: £38.50: £4.70. £1.10, £4.10, £4.50.
DF: £73.80. CSF: £50.22. Tricest: £416.57.
Tinc: £127.30.
2.50: 1. PENLOP (B Dovie) 11.4 fav; 2.
Naiwasha 5-1; 3. Madana Laty 33-1. 14 ran.

Nationals 5-1; 3. Maximus Lucy 33-1, 14-ran. 6, hd. (B. Mechan). Tota: £4,10; £1,20, £1,80, £3,70, DF: £11,00, CSF, £15,20, Tho:

128.40. 8.20: 1. PICCOLO CATIVO Wigels Hart-ley 33-1; 2. Stine Kite 11-10 Say 3. Thanks Kelth 4-1. 12 mm. **, 3. Kingt / Wilson). Tota: £29.70: £8.00. £1.30. £1.50. DF: £84.80.

Keth 4-1. Izan. 7.5. Ch. 20. E1.50. DF: £84.80. CSF: £70.55. 7no: £46.10. 3.50: 1.1.407 setempf (C Parlen) 7-4 tag. 3.50: 1.1.407 setempf (C Parlen) 9-1. 13 run. Hd, 1/2. (A) W Essent/yı. Totar. £2.40; £1.10. £3.60. £3.20. DF: £25.80. CSF: £0.23. Turast: £127.90. Inc: £33.70. 4.25: 1. CHILLING (K Steel 20-1; 2. Desert involver 5-1; 3. Bold Aristocant 13-2. 14 run. 5-2 fav Biton Ledger, 1/4. 5. (N Tolder). Totar: £16.90: £2.30, £4.40. 51.10. DF: £58.80. CSF: £105.85. Trace £157.30. 4.55: 1. WATER GARDEN 1/4 Carlo 9-4 tag. 2. Shoutains 14-1; 3. Swam Island 4-1; 4. Takhilid 14-1. 15 run. 1/1/4. (G Wrage. Totar: £3.50; £1.70. £4.60; £1.40, £4.40. DF: £33.80. CSF: £35.93. Turast: £119.94. Inc: £57.10.

The: £57.10. Piscepot: £38.30. Quadpot: £4.50. Piace 6: £49.26. Piace 5: £22.43.

LINGFIELD

HYPERION 3.50 Shanghai Lil 4.20 Musharak 2.20 Runs in The Family 2.50 Prince Foley 4.50 Regal Thunder 3.20 Chewit

3.20 Chewitt

GOING: Good (Turf): Samilard (AW).

STALLS: Stands side (Turf): I'm - outside, I'm 21 - mside (AW).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: On turf, high off to 7f 140yds; Equitrack, low.

Eleft-band, sharp course. All-weather surface is Equitrack.

If Course is SE of town on B3928. Linglish station (served by London, Vistoria) adjoint course. ADMISSIGN's Members 513, Family Enclosure 42. GAR PARE: Carb 53; rest free.

ELEADING TRAINGES WITH RUNNIESS: G L Moore — 67 winners from 476 runners given a success ratio of 14. 1% and a loss to 2.51 level state of 542.95 is Blannon — 40 winners, 12.7%.—5114.07; T Manghton — 30 winners, 251 level state of 542.95 is Blannon — 40 winners, 12.7% — 80 winners, 247 runners, 12.1%, —583.72.

ELEADING GOCKEYS: L Dettori — 88 winners, 363 rides, 24.0%, 4516.58; J Westwer — 85 winners, 376 rides, 11.5%, +518.13; R Cochrane — 64 winners, 366 rides, 17.5%, +520.30; A Clark — 63 winner, 373 rides, 11.7%, -527.87.

BLENKERED FIEST TIME: Dancing Mystery (2.20); Worldwide Bisie (3.50). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-INSTANCE EURNERS: Whiche Book (2.20) has been and 300 niles by Mrs M Reveley from Linguise, Cleveland.

| 1 | .50 | KAHYASI HANDICAP (AM) (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m Penal ty Value £3,646 |
|----|---------|--|
| _ | | Ly ranks 20,070 |
| 1 | 236-00 | BANZHAF (USA) (35) (CD) (Bryon Pennick) G L Moore 4 10 0 |
| 2 | 21-135 | SOMERIG 557) (CD) 6Philip Saunders) M Uster 7 9 11 |
| 3 | 335 | PRIME LIGHT (342) Dioles Record G Wags 4 B 11 |
| ā | 20-000 | PENGAMON (23) (CD) (Miss Arabella Smallman) H Collegidge 5 9 10 |
| 5 | | FARMOST (251) (b) (W E Sturt) Sr M Prestott 4 9 8 |
| ē | 1500-2 | YOUNG ANNABEL (USA) (32) (IndenoEuros) C Dayer 48 7 |
| 7 | 00020- | SAND STAR (212) (C) (Mis T M Party) () Haydr Jones 5 9 6 |
| ġ | 201420 | IC CHE SABA (USA) (18) (CD) (8F) (D Vingho) M Madgrida 5 9 1 |
| ğ | 1/6.115 | SWEET SUPPOSIN (35) (CD) (BF) (C Middlernes) C Dwyer & 9 0 1 Doublet 2 |
| 10 | 06.761 | GEERONS BOY (44) (Terry Shephent) S Dow 4 B 12 |
| _ | | HAMMA STORM (FR) (43) (CD) (C C Capel) O Finnel Davis 9 8 5 |
| 11 | | |
| 17 | annon | RESIST THE RODCE (USA) (1912) (Als Badsas Horari C Cizer 7 8 5 |

- 12 cocared -BETTING: 8-4 Farmont, 7-2 Supert Supportin, 7-1 Prime Light, 8-1 Souting, 10-1 Young Annabel, 22-1 NC Chi Saga, 14-1 Sagniar, Resist The Force, 18-1 others 1996: Socky Tem 9 7 10 G Bardwaf 3-1 fav (I M Bradley) drawn (G 9 ran

1996: Sooy 7em 9 7 10 G Byrowell 3-1 far (1 M Bradley) drawn (6) 9 ran FORMA GUIDE.

Goodf Wragg does well with his runners here and PREMEE LIGHT could well be the one in his first handlesp. The Primo Dominie golding showed plemy of ability in three starts in decent meldens at Networkert, Salisbury and Kempton early lest season, winding up with a close hith of 15 to Gold Spats over seven futions. Prime Light has not run since 1 June, but there must be every chance that Wragg has him fit ehough. Farmost is an obvious danger designe having the production of the Successful so times last year, he had Sweet Supposition and Oberonis Boy well behind when gathing his last win at Wolverhampton (1m 1f) and is equally effective on this surface, Sweet Suppositi's recent whis have been over longer titps and he never got in a blow behind Arak-Ru here last morth, but he is only 2to higher than when beating No Spoeches half a length the time before. Franke Detton is again in the soddle, Barchalf was the subject of a gamble when tast of seven to Barbason on turf here last morth. He won three times on this surface the winter before last and should not be written off yel. Neither should Pengamon, who gave some encouragement in Chackawicka's Newmarket race last time and goes off the sume mark as when last when lost winner, over course and estations in March last year, it will be surprising if IC Chi Saga or Hawaii storm in good enough in this company. Young Annabel is 4to higher than when touched of does home by Jiteroen at Southwell inst month.

2.20 GOLDEN HORSESHOE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added

| L | | 5f Penalty Value £3,018 | |
|----|---------|--|--------------------|
| i | 000-55 | WILLOW DALE (18) (D) Original Jackson Bloodstock O Elsworth 4 8 11 | |
| į | 000420 | MILIAS (10) (C) (D) (The Mass Parmership) L Montague Half 4 9 10 | F Lynch (3) 1: |
| 3 | 20265 | SHAVINSKY (234) (long See Rooms P Howing 4 9 8 | |
| i | 0-1150 | REFIF (14) (D) (Brodwicht Guerding Ltd) 9 Instan 4 9 8 | S Whitworth 1 |
| 5 | 04-000 | MINORACE (14) (D) (D) F Abbott) K Mary 4 96 | Nertin Duyer (3) 1 |
| 5 | 3443-6 | THERD PARTY (1,7) IMAS G R STINED 5 DOW 3 95 | W Ryan : |
| 7 | 4221-0 | HALF TONE (14) (D) (Ms G M Temmermant 9 M Flower 5 9 0 | "Dane O'Nell 2 |
| 3 | 055-0 | DAINTREE (15) (G 8 Arryl H Collingstop 3 9 0 | M ROWERS |
| 9 | 00-050 | POLLY GOLDRITTLY (13) (D) (Deard Syles) M Benshard 48 11 | X Devicy 81 |
| ۵ | 633-63 | JOHN O'DREAMS (30) (D) (T P Halam) Was A King 12 88 | T Sprake 1 |
| u | 60-602 | RUNS IN THE FAMILY (10) (Seoliny C Greenwood) 6 McCourt 584 | D Harrison 13 |
| 12 | 04-0 | DANCING MYSTERY (31) (Austin Strout & Co LEO E Wheeler 38 1, | A (Daily (5) 41 |
| L | -000000 | BAPTISMAL ROCK (18) (P Byrne) 8 Curry 38 0 | Quinn |
| 14 | 584330 | SUPERLAO (661) (44) (6) () F Welc) J Bridger 5 7 10 | F Norton |

Minimum weight: 7st 10th, Your handsom weight: Superioo 7st Gib. BETTING: 3-1 Runs in The Fundly, 8-1 John O'Drestma, 7-1 Willow Dale, 8-1 Miljos, Riffil, 10-1 Half Fone, 12-1 Third Party, 14-1 others 1996: Judgement Cad 9 8 6 F Norten 16-1 (P Howling) drawn (10) 18 ron

HYPERION

2.10 Hirst Bridge 2.40 Kemo Sabo 3.10 JACK

THE LAD (nap) 3.40 Amron 4.10 Shadow Jury

I Sight-hand undulating rourse.

II Course is on Durdor road, 4m W of junction 42 of M6, Sation 2m. ADMISSION: Club 513 (OAPs & under-21s 59); Tattersalls 56 (OAPs & under-21s 59; Tattersalls 56 (OAPs & under-21s 59; Tattersalls 56 (OAPs & under-21s 59; Tattersalls 56); CAR PARIE: On rails 53; res free, EINKERED FIRST TIME: Needle Match (3.40); Toronto [4.10]. WANNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Shadow Jury (4.10) won the state of Manhot.

d Warrick on Monday. LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Indian Serenade (2.40) has been

sen 322 miles by 8 Simpson from West Buckland, Somerset, Aba-lany (3.10). Flying Harold (3.40) & Corniche Quest (4.10) bove been sent 286 miles by M Chamon from Upper Lambourn, Berksbire.

2.40 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)

- 8 declared -BETTIME 2-1 Bructume Guid, 7-2 Kenno Subo, 4-1 Alimson's Mats, 7-1

3.10 CARLISLE, GREAT RAILWAY CITY, 1997 HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 3YO 1m

CGO.2 CARROUGHE (13) S7 M Preson 97 _____ © Domeid 4
04-5 FAURA (22) R Gottern 9 6 _____ Domei Molecom 2
6-303 ABAINNY (5) M Charron 9 3 ____ P P Marphy (5) 7
3060-0 BEAU ROBERTO (15) M JOTESON 8 13 ____ Y Where 6
0633-0 STREISTA (11) M W Eastedy 8 12 ____ 7 Linns 11 8

NOTTINGHAM

HYPERION

Cyrian 7.50 Jean Pierre 8.20 Swallow Breeze

GOING: Good (Food to Firm in places).

STALLS: 5f & 0f - far side; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGES: Low for 5f & 6f.

II. Left-hand, ownl course, Fist and galloping with casy turns.

E Course is inn E of city off B666. ADMISSION: Club 5 12 [18-21 years, 55]; Taxlessiffs \$5; Silver Ring & Paddock 54. CAE PARE:

Silver Ring S 13 (selmits car plus four occupants), rest free.

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: Mellors (viewed) (0.00); Palantom (7.20); Ely Heatfoot (visoced) (7.50); Moorbird (visoced) (8.20).

WYDNINES IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.

LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: Magical Deaser (3.50) & Warrior

Eing (8.20) sens 136 miles by Mrs N Deficiel from Asmouth, Deson.

6.00 COLWICK PARK APPRENTICE HANDICAP

| COLWICK PARK APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 6f | 241,40 | CCLASS G) £2,875 added 6f | 241,40 | CCLASS G) £2,875 added 6f | 2 243,41 | COCSO CHINES (24) (D) 8 Pairs 4 10 CC Lowither (S) 3 | 2 023,34 | MREGISSS (49 Relibing 6 9 8 ... Sophie Mitched 36 Y 3 365,200 | MELIORS (29) (D) M Heaton-Dis 4 9 4 ... Finals (5) 14 Y 4 300.0-6 BRILLORS (29) (D) M Heaton-Dis 4 9 4 ... Finals (5) 14 Y 4 300.0-6 BRILLORS (29) (D) M Heaton-Dis 4 9 4 ... Finals (5) 14 Y 4 4 300.0-6 BRILLORS (5) M 12 BRILLORS (6) M 12 BRILLORS (7) M 15 M 16 BRILLORS (7) M 17 M 16 BRILLORS (7) M 17 M 17 M 17 M 17 M 18 BRILLORS (7) M 18 BRILLORS

- 18 declared - 18 Mineseres, Polgayuma 10-1 Mineseres, Polgayuma 10-1 Mineseres, Polgayuma 10-1 Mineseres, 12-1 Meliox, Move Smartly, Sweet Mate, 14-1 others

6.25 BRITISH BUS AUCTION MAIDEN STOY

LACAT ANNIA . Jericos 88

& Pada (5) 4

6.00 Meranti 6.25 Farley Green 6.50 Star 7.20

1532-2 BROCTURE GOLD (14) (D) (BF) Mis M Reveloy 6 9 13 --

-85210 FRIST GOLD (22) (CD) J Whenton 8 8 6 ______ 30-850 ALLINSON'S MATE (3) (CD) 7 D Botton 8 9 5 ______ Victoria As

GOING: Good to Soft [Soft in places]. STALLS: Inside, except 1m6f outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: like from 7f to 1m4f.

10 £5,000 added 2YO 5f CALDEW

ALCONLEIGH M Johnston 90...

CARLISLE

4.40 Lord Hastle

- 11 decimal

- House weight 7st 10h. True handing weight felles files 7st.

BETUNG 5-2 lack The Lad, 11-4 Majany, 5-1 Carbonche, 10-1 Fauna
Besu Roberto, Emby-Iapan, King Uan, 12-1 Tycom Tins, 16-1 others

3.40 BORDER ESK, HANDICAP (CLASS E)

£4,025 added 6f

20640 BRECONGLI LID (1822 (0) Mas S Holl 5 8 11 Doubthul 7

2-1676 AMBRON (4) (CD) (BP) / Borry 10 9 8 TE Doman (5) 8

0-0002 NANSSANT (5) (C) (D) R Moletter 4 8 8 ... X Shod (7) 1

005 MOST RESPECTIFUL (1/4) 0 Smith 48 12 ... Common (5) 6

131600 NIEDUL BROCK (7) (D) E Mistry 5 8 12 ... J Formon 6

131600 NIEDUL BROCK (7) (D) F Mistry 5 8 12 ... J Formon 6

131600 NIEDUL BROCK (7) (D) TO Will 48 10 ... J Common 2

8 E5-054 BOLLIN DOROTHY (8) T Experty 48 8 ... N Brich 11

9 004-05 BROCKHOOD (SM CH) (20) M Oney 78 7 ... J Wenner 9 8

10 -06004 NID ORY (1/4) (D) 0 Chapter 6 8 3 ... P Frendry (5) 6

10 00-624 Flyning HAROLD (3) M Oneynon 4 8 0 ... J Ferning

BETTENC 4-1 Bodin Borothy, 5-1 Amerol, Stephensone Boucket, 8-1 Bre-

BETTING: 4-1 Botin Dorothy, 5-1 Jamen, Stephensons Rocket, 6-1 Bro cought Lad, Rymon's Ruscol, Mondo Match, Flying Havold, 10-1 infliend 4.10 IRTHING LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f

23,300 added 57
30061 SHNDOW JURY (4) (7) O Crapmen 7 9 8 __1 Channock 8 8
52230 AFFAN (53) R Menn 4 9 3 _____ Dean McKeron 9
656060 ANSWERS-TO-THOMAS (7) J M Jofferson 4 9 3 ____ J Fortune 8
00-040 PETINCO (4) (3) N Profile 9 3 ____ J Brampill (5) 5
500.03 COPRICIES (BUEST (5) (BF) M Charmon 4 90 P P Morphy 95 2
500.00 SING WITH THE BURD (8) (7) 8 McKerton 8 9 0 B Deffort 6
246-00 RED ROMANIE; (5) O Smith 3 8 8 8 8 8 A Carbane 7
500.01 TORONOO (33) J Berry 3 8 8 _____ J Wester 1 B
443000 LINNER MUSIC (10) (7) Ron Thompson 3 8 SN Compensor 10 -6 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Alconicigh, 3-1 Hirst Bridge, 7-2 Prix Star, 5-1 Lakeland Pride, 6-1 Seventh Housen, 20-1 Potera - 10 declared BETTING: 5-2 Standow Jury, 3-1 Comiche Quost, 7-1 Petraco, 10-1 Ausweez-To-Thornus, Skyezs Ryer, 12-1 Alaam, Lavar Monte, 14-1 others

4.40 EDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 6f 32yds

| 1 | 1404-0 | TRILLEY (29) & Richards 4 8 10 A Collision | 4 |
|---|--------|--|---|
| 2 | 52434/ | WELL APPOINTED (19) 8 Mactaggart 8 8 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 05/060 | TORRESEE (10) (D) 8 McMahon 5 9 3 Fertune | 1 |
| 4 | 50-065 | 10RD HASTE (5) (D) (BF) C Thomson 9 9 3. Dean McKerner | 7 |
| 5 | 00/00- | LADY SWIFT (17) K Hogg 688 Bramble (5) | E |
| 6 | 302113 | ALL ON (1) J Hetherton 8 8 8 (Sec) | E |
| 7 | | HIGHERELD FIZZ (16) (D) C Feithurst 584 L Charnock | |
| 8 | 4054/5 | CHARITY CRUSADER (34) Mrs M Reveley 680 | _ |
| | | P Fessey (5) 9 | ı |
| 9 | /000-3 | RECLUSE (7) W Kemp 6 7 10 | E |
| | | - 9 decigred - | |
| | | The COSt. Town boundaries underen Donderen Ten City. | |

Agrictum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Recluse 7st 8th. NETTWee 9-4 All On, 5-2 Lord Hinstle, 8-1 Triby, Walf Appointed, To Charity Crustador, 10-1 Highlield Fizz, Recluse, 14-1 Lady Swift

7.20 WEATHERBYS SERVICES LIMITED STAVES (CLASS D) \$4,900 1m 2f 21504. ALAFLIK (244) (b) W R Hem 6 9 8 T Sprain 5
251-60 PMANON (BSA) (15) (b) 1 White 4 9 8 W J O'Coner 2 8
202-00 THOLMI RISK (16) G Lenis 4 9 8 Puni Eddery 3
0060-5 CHELLIKO PROFICES (15) D Haydr Jones 4 9 5 R Drowns 4
1 CYRMIN (527) FC de 3 6 9 T T Quint 5
345-0 DANAM ALLAL (22) M Lenis 3 8 7 R Cockname 5
6 declared - 6 declared - 7 Shinkin Tulna 10 to 5 4 Common 5
TIMES 11-4 Corins 7-2 Shinkin Tulna 10 to 5 4 Common 5 1

SETTING: 11-4 Cycles, 7-2 Alegals, Trojes Risk, 5-1 Capitano Princess, 7-1 Palesson, 2-1 December 201

| 19 | 1 Paleston, 2-1 United Alexa | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| [7 | .50 | STUDENTS IN HALF PRICE HCAP (CLASS F) £3,300 1m 2f | | | |
| 1 | 020-15 | WHAT A FUSS (74) 8 Harbury 4 10 0 | | | |
| 2 | 3010-0 | TONKA (13) (D) P Makin 59 12 D Harrison 15 | | | |
| 3 | · 60-000 | LEA PEDIGO (11) (D) Miss / Case 4912 R Phench (5) 2 | | | |
| 4 | 0010-6 | SALTINDO (35) Pat Naphell 69 12 Martin Dayer (3) 13 | | | |
| 5 | 1040-0 | KRUSTAL BREEZE (44) (D) W Mur 5 8 10 Hold 14 | | | |
| 6 | 00-230 | JEAN PRERE (7) J Prace 49 10 Dettor 7 | | | |
| 7 | 03063- | ERREIT (147) (D) O Cosgrove 5.96 D O'Donoboo (3) 11 | | | |
| 8 | -40564 | BENOTICO (12) (D) Mrs N Macoulley 8 9 7 S Webster 5 | | | |
| 9 | 2310-0 | MORTH BEAR (12) 6 McCourt 5 9 7 R Shutholme (7) 8 | | | |
| 10 | 50-10 | CASHAPLENTY (41) N Littmoden 4 98 7 G McLaughlin 3 | | | |
| 11 | 2000-0 | BLY FLEETFOOT (56) 6 L Moore 5 9 5 S Whithworth 16 V | | | |
| 12 | 0241-1 | ARCATURA (116) (D) C James 595 | | | |
| 13 | 5000-0 | FISH KINSMAN (4) G Yardley 4 9 4 | | | |
| 14 | 21103- | COMEDY RIVER (171) (U) N Berry 10 9 4 | | | |
| 15 | 100-03 | | | | |
| 28 | -30041 | GOLD LANCE (USA) (23) R O'Sulhen 4 8 4 R Cochrane 6 | | | |
| 17 | 2200-6 | GOLDIEN FAMM (41) N Babbage 48 4 | | | |
| 18 | 14110- | DOUBLE RUSH (129) (D) (EF) 7 Mile 58 4T Quine 16 | | | |
| | | - 10 declared - | | | |
| | | | | | |

BETTRIG: 7-2 Arcatura, Gold Lance, 8-1 Mistri Brenze, Jean Mer 1 What A Press, Tooks, Comedy River, Double Resk, 12-1 others 8.20 NEXT GENERATION OF RACEGOERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 3YO 1m 6F

| 1 | 000-2 | TAMICO 10HG (39) (9F) / Dunlop 9 7 |
|---------|--------|--|
| 2 | 4310-5 | SWALLOW BREEZE (13) (C) Dr.) Scarge 9 6.D (Thomobine (3) 1 |
| 3 | 0-4112 | TOUCHNEGO (32) (3F) M Jornston 9 5 |
| ā | 524 | MOUNTAINEER (27) (BP) M Bel 8 2 |
| 5 | 004 | LE GRAND COUSIER (197) 9 Williams 8 1 |
| 8 | 030.05 | MOORBERD (27) / L Harris 9 0 K Fallon 10 V |
| 7 | 003- | CLEAR THE AIR (241) P Cole B 11T Quint 13 |
| B | 400-04 | WILDIGOOR (16) / Bethell 8 8 |
| ğ | 000-5 | JIICHOA (25) J Pearse 8 8 |
| 10 | 0.50 | MAZARA (21) A Foster 6 7T Speake 11 |
| ī | 5-0432 | SPOROULICKS (8) 8 Baugh 86 |
| 12 | 00-0 | BISQUET-DE-BOUCHE (24) R Dicker 8 2 |
| 13 | | WARRIOR KING (28) Mis N Dutheld 8 2 |
| 14 | 0.0305 | MARSHONA (15) Erect hour 7 13 |
| 15 | MAU. | MELLYCOOD (188) M Tomplers 7 12 Date Gibson 14 |
| 15 | CD CAA | ALDERS (39) White 7 11 |
| | CAP A | PRST MAN (10) 8 Levelyn 7 10 |
| 17 | 400-0 | - 17 declared ~ |
| | | |
| e first | | he 7st 10th. True handlean weight: Pirst Man 7st 1th. |
| Æ | 11 THE | \$ Tango King, 5-1 Touch u/go, 7-1 Mountainent, 8-1 Clear |
| The | 施,10-1 | Seption Bragge, 12-1 Incinds, 14-1 others |
| | | |

After winning three times as a juversie, WILLOW DALE struggled under big weights for the most part last season, atthough she did manage a third to Midnight Epicape at Windson last May. That good his was off a 15th higher merk and her return fifth to Splander at Brighton suggested she would win races this year. Wilhow Dele was fifth to Lord Oliver at Episom last time (Milliper last of 10) and hes dropped further in the weights since. She has raced promently both starts this term and a good start from her high draw should see her go close to-day. Rams in The Familly, unplaced in the 3.50 at Southwell yesterday, led for much of the way within three lengths second to Fame Again at Nottingham last month and can go well from her high draw, John O'Dreatmer's Bath third to Industsh showed that the 12-year-old too hard when sloth to Pepparat at Follestone last time and the drop to this trp should help. Half Tope, Rithif and Mindrates were well beaten in Gone Sanage's Sendown race. That was half Tope is first not since he wan at this same course in August, so he can do better. Shawinsky lacks a recent run but the boolang of Michael Roberts is encouraging.

Selections: WillOW DALE

2.50 RACING CHANNEL STEVE WOOD MEMORIAL NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £4,350 added 240 5f Penalty Value £3,064

Signs, 2014 regiment of the Eddery 4-9 km (R Hamon) dearn (3) 5 mm.
FORM GUIDE
Prince Foley has not really progressed since making a winning debut et Leicester liest month, going down a short head to Barraingham Blade at Brighton and then fasishing that to Rasty Babe at Notongham. He meets the Leicester lith, SIBOOTH SAILING, on 4to better terms, but Smooth Sailing stepped up on that run to win the juvenile race on Whitbrad day at Sandown by a neck from Rorr's Pet (Basic Style last of 10) and can score again. Richard Hamon, trainer of the Sandown second and third, goes with Whistley black, who could this only third to the Heingh withiner Ballet Rambert when a warm socients for his Bath debut (Solvery Lass 10th of 111, Geoff Lewis is going through a quiet spell and his revisioner self-th Money may be one to writch today.

320 HAVANA HORSE (UK) LIMITED STAKES (CLASS C) £7,325

| | | agged /T 140yos Penarty Value 25,163 |
|---|--------|--|
| 1 | B040-0 | AL MERAD (20) (Astrote Record Partners) J Hats 4 9 T |
| 2 | 03-225 | CHENT (9) (CD) (Ballard (1834) Limited) G L Moore 5 9 7 |
| 3 | 63130- | CROWN COURT (235) (D) (Lord de la Wert & M Yerr-Dingeri) L Currain 4 9 7 L Dettors : |
| 4 | /2000- | LYNTON LAD (345) (Unlands Bloodspot) C Brooks 5 9 7 7 Quine |
| 5 | 06141- | MOVE WITH EDES (285) (W Ede & Co) W G M Turner 5 8 7D Sweepey (5) |
| 6 | 21006- | LILLI CLAURE (228) (D) (C Lente) A Foster 4 9 4T Spraids (|
| 7 | | WHATTLE BOCK (48) (Boy Home Racing Syndicate) Mrs M Reveloy 4 9 4 |
| | | - 7 declared - |
| | | |

SETTING: 5-4 Crosso Court, 5-2 Cheeft, 8-1 M Abraq, Whittle Rock, 10-1 LISS Clairs, 16-1 More With Edes, 25-1 Lymbon Lad 1996: Alhawa 38 8 T Quam 6-1 (C J Benstead) drawn (3) 6 san

FORM GLIDE

CROWN COURT was a handsap good thing when winning off a mark of 70 at Newmer [1m] in July and was resed 15to as a result of that easy five-length success. He went to be beaten about a length in third to Pahim in the valuable three-year-old, 10-fariting his icap at Glorious Goodwood before firsting in mid-division in the Cambridgeshee, Crown Cower gated 91 on that last nur, so his chance in this 0-90 firsted states is an obvious or was rated 91 on that last run, so his chance in this C-90 limited staines is an obvious one provided he is not inconvenienced by the drop in distance. Chewit has gained all his wins here, three in Equitoch and the last two on turf, he is in good form, last time finishing fifth of 25 to Tregaron in the Victoria Cup at Ascot when rated 88 and will not be far away. All Abring gave tritle ecouragement in Hawlistey HB's Newbury race on his return but will find this easier, as will Whittle Rock, 16th of 24 in the Lincoln. Lift Challe, who are a Goodwood and Newmarket last season, lacks a recent run but has every chance at the weights.

Selection: CROWN COURT

3.50 LADY O FILLES HANDICAP (AW) (CLASS E) £4,025 added

| _ | | The street American Street |
|---|---------|--|
| | 13322 | BUBBLE WINES (FR) (198) (C) (Or Frank B 8 Chaol S Woods 5 10 0 |
| | 132035 | MONO LADY (13) (D) (Monoletic Reliactores Ltd) D Haydn Jones 4 9 7 A Clark 11 |
| | 1650-3 | CLASSIC BEAUTY (15) (Aydose) S C Williams 4 9 2 |
| | 512130 | CHENOLA (35) (Crestopher Spence) O Morky 49 1 |
| | | MMOSA (9) (William Alexander) S Dow 4 9 0 |
| | 12230 | SHANGHAI LIL (13) (C) (BP) (Deorge & Dragony M Femerson-Godley 5 8 13 F Norton |
| | 0-\$050 | WORLDWIDE ELSE (USA) (4) (Casso Bloodstock Pic) Campbell 4 8 13 |
| | 50400- | SANDICLEYE (USA) (257) (Mrs.) 9 Woodnouse) 8 FMs 48 8 |
| | | AUSURA (140) (140) (140) (140) (140) (140) |
| _ | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Selection: 12-1 Seminative, 44-2 weekers

1980: no corresponding sets

MIMIOSA, a numbigon sixth of 28 to Broughtons Formula in the White Rose Handicap at Assot (Linu, looks the best option. The time before, she had been a length and a helf second to Sylven Princess of Lescester off a 7th higher mark than noday's and her lest run on this autisce in March saw her finish third to Captan's Day over this trip. Shanghali Lill timeled a long way in front of Minnosa Issaried slowly when six lengths second to Tablicab Belle have in February, but Martin Fetherston-Godley's mare disappointed at Wolvensempton less time. Beliable Williags, a previous course winner, proved most consistent lest year, winding up with a half-length second to Tomara at Yarmouth and will go close despite her 10st if since is reasonably straight for this return. Barry Hills's Sandictiffe probably needs a longer trip, while this may prove too far for Pean Dewn. Calendula and Mono Lody have won notes on Ribresand this year and recopose on the same terms as when separated by a short head at Wolversempton in February. Classic Beauty was a creditable thin to Tallicab Belle on her recent Beverley responsance (Worldwide Etale fifth of 11) and has every chance.

4.20 TEENOSO MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,900 added 7f Penalty Value £3,191. TF Pentality Value £3,191

ROCK PALCON E Rates) Lady Hentes 4 9 10.

BERBURY BALLAD Barbury Racing M Healthy-Bls. 3 8 12

55 GHAUES (DSA) LSS (Sheish Pitter & Maidtourn A Stewen 3 8 12

GRO (Y 9 Y Partnersing) Gay Kelleriny 3 8 12

400. MONITODO (1934) (158) Onlinean A Maidtourn M Secure 3 8 12

And MONITODO (1934) (158) Onlinean A Maidtourn M Secure 3 8 12

402. MISSHERIK (41) Okamban A Maidtourn) J Dunlop 3 8 12

53 PRINCE ZURIO (17) (Mas 8 Summer C Horgen 3 8 12

00. SHAPP DEED (200) Petter Hermann J P Melan 3 8 12

01. FLYING COLOURS (193) (Mrs 9 W 5 Bates) C J Bersaned 3 8 7

6 MY GREL LUCY (310) (Mrs Patros Machelly P Maidte 3 8 7

- 12 declared rate (7) t _K Due

BETTUNC: 5-4 Manhurah, 4-1 Gharth, 5-1 Moritoot, 12-1 Prisco Zundo, 14-1 Night Express, 20-1 Starbury Stalled, Gilco, Little Ancie, 25-1 others 1996: Russen Muse 3 8 12 9 Cochrans 11-10 for (Say Nationally) drawn |4) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE
MUSHARAK felled by just a neck to get the better of odds-on Romanov on his Heydock re MUSHARAK felled by just a neck to get the better of odds-on Romenov on his respoon return over this try and the winner boosted the form when following up in a Sandown conditions race. John Dunlop's odd should go one better in this essuer arce, chiestle, fifth to Teofition
at Beverley on his respectance, was two lengths in horn of sixty-pleced Night Express
and both can reprove, although the drop in distance may not help. Gay Kelleway's unraced
Gilko is well bred and was a cheep purchase from Luca Cumani. He is best watched in the
betting. The Michael Stoute-trained Mouslood showed lede in two starts lest year but is open
to unprovement, while this is tougher for Prince Zundo after two for runs at Follestone.

Setaction: MUSHARAK

4.50 TEENOSO MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,900 added 7f Penalty Value £3,191

11 BALFORE LADY (The Busington Partnership) Total 38 7 ______ Sanders 6
12 00 Mass Map (4) (W 9 Marri) P Mitchell 3 8 7 ______ Miller 3 8 7 _____ Miller 3 8 7 Miller 3 8 Miller 3 8 7 Miller 3 8 7 Miller 3 8 Miller 3 8 7 Miller 3 8 7 Miller 3 8 7 Miller 3 8 Miller 3 Miller

1996: Item 3 8 7 A McGione 10-3 (H Cardy) dearn (2) 9 nm

FORM GRIDE

This does not look as good as the first division and PRAEDITUS can break his duck, Richard Hannon's Cadeaux Genereux coft has shown fair form in his thine, starts and made the running to almost this distance when fifth of 15 to Rashlk at Newbury on his return. The drop in trip should help, Regall Thumder is the danger, Fifth of 16 to Mashhaer at Newmarket on his debut in October, he was besten about 10 lengths in ninth of 12 to Shawaf on his reappearance at that course and can improve. Such Buldhaes and Marieh Chusader have both grached in mid-division of big fields, here and at Nottingham respectively, from shige starts and are open to improvement. The trip is surely too short for dual bumper winner Perfect.

Pet.

Selection: PRAEDITUS

SEDGERELD

HYPERION 2.00 Mozrak 2.30 Royal Hand 3.00 Hee's A Dancer 3.30 Crown Equerry 4.00 What A Chance 4.30

Fatehalkhair GOING: Good to Flora (Good in places).

Left-hand, undulating course, Run-in on chase course of 500 yels.

Course is 1 m SE of fown near junction of AG99 and A177. Stockness station (3nn), Durhaus station (12m). ADMISSION: Paddock S8 (OAPS S4); Course S2. CAR PARKE Paddock S2, others free.

RITHERPRED FIRST TIMES Catton Lady (2-30).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Catch The Pigeon (2-00), Findlock (2-30) & Fatchalkhair (4-30) won here on Pyddy.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNINERS: Sporey Lane (2-30) has been sent 287 tolless for 1 Newlie from Coodkness. Seven 2.

287 miles by J Neville from Coedkernew, Gwent 2.00 ALPHAMERIC NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 5f 110yds

62-12 MUZRAK (329) (BF) M Hammond 6 11

2.30 JOHN WADE GROUP SELLING H'CAP HUR-DLE (CLASS G) £10,000 2m 5f 110yds

Allintnum weight: 10st. True hundrop weight: Royal Hand 9st 10th, Obvious Risk 9sr 8b, Nêr Sprite 9sr 8b, Captor Lady 9sr 13sb. SETURIC: 9-4 Burton Heights, 11-4 Fleibnek, 11-2 Red Jam. Jer, 12-2 Snowy Lane, 7-1 Sheikin Albey, 12-1 Royal Hand, 20 Obvious Risk, 25 others

3.00 DUDLEY DUKES ANTIQUE FAIR NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 2m 110yds OUSPO1 GONE ASHORE (25) (D) M Burnes 6 11 7 ______ S Caball PROPO3 ARESTONEMUS (25) Mrs L Mostres 8 11 0 ___ R Johnson 8 OUFSF CHILDSHOY (59) S J Robinson 9 11 0 _____ N Sanith

3.30 GEORGE CARPENTER MEMORIAL HAND-ICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 3m 3f

10 PHELIPS Return Desiring (SL) Floring to 300 Table 1 Inches (17 V 10 decired - Minimum weight (St. 7ms fronticap weight Sunny (Sg 9st 110, Mischle vous (Sr 9st 20, Bright Destry 8st 130, Sections, 13-2 Over The Stream 8-1 Temple Garth, 10-1 Serado View, 12-1 Bromy O'Den, 14-1 others

4.00 GUY CUNARD HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 2m 5f

22-821 WHAT CHANCE (56) (D) Mrs H Mobiley 9 12 5 Nr A Chandes-Jones (7) — 6 declared — — Mr A Charles-Jones (7)

BETING: 13-8 Greenmount Lad, 11-4 Known Head, 3-1 What Chance, 7-1 Press For Action, 12-1 Ductide, 14-1 Suckaneer Say

4.30 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £3,000 2m 1f

STEEL FORD HYPERION

5.40 Maid For Adventure 6.10 Greenback 6.35 Gower-Slave 7.05 Air Shot 7.35 Keep Me In Mind (nb) 8.05 Kino 8.35 Nahia

eer cood, Rigand course with 200yd run-in. 1986 is SW of Stratford-on-Avon on A439, Stratford station 1980SSION: Club S 12; Tapennils 58; Come 54, CAR PARK: inside course 52, rest free. BLINKEIED FIEST TIME: Reep Me In Mind (visored, 7.35). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Stilltodo (8.05) won

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Disco Des Mottes (7.05) & The Major General (8.05) have been sent 211 miles by G Birkards from Greynoke, Combris.

5.40 PRAGNELL TROPHY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,000 2m 6f 110yds

6.10 RICHARDSON DEVELOPMENTS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 2m 5f 110yds

6.35 PRAGNELL TROPHY NOVICE SKY

£3,000 2m 6f 110yds 104141 SHARP COMMAND (18) P Eross 4 11 5 ...

BETTING: 6-4 Slory, To Speak, 7-4 Starry Consumerd, 8-1 Sower, Starra, Starra, Elga, 14-1 Starry Min, 25-1 Gostformen Jim, 33-1 others

المهاد الماد ا

7.05 HARTSHORNE MOTORS HAND SKY

221-13 ARR SHOT (68) (D) O Nicholson 7 11 10 ______R Johnson 10F255 STRONG MEDICINE (111) (CD) K Balley 10 11 8... C D'Duyer -85111 DISCO DER MOTTES (SQ) (D) G Richards 8 110 ___ P Carborny 21-252 DESTRY CALLS (21) (RF) N Gescher 1 01 11 ___ P Dunbroody 2222F1 PHEUP'S WOODY (20) (C) N Hendeson 9 10 4... M A Fizigeald

- S doctored -BETTRIC: T-4 Disco dos Mottes, 5-2 Air Shot, 4-1 Destiny Calls, 5-1 Philiph

7.35 NEIDHAM & JAMES HCAP HOLE SKY (CLASS D) £3,650 2m 110yds (CLASS D) £3,650 2m 110yds (1978, 1) 110130 0tr RAMIGNE FRY (13) D) 1 Newle 5 11 13 ...7 Descrable 3 -31300 MOST EQUAL (30) (ED) M Ppc 7 11 13 A P McDay -3 -3112 0tf On A PROMISSE (7) (D) N Wisber 5 11 8 N Millionanon A P3255 ISAMH (56) (D) Ns. J Cool 8 11 8 N Millionanon SEVERN (AME (32) (CD) J Alen 7 11 3 X Alzuma (3) 8 44550 (EE) NE IN MIND (13) (D) N McDay 8 11 2 J F Tilley B 105603 MASHWILE STAR (7) (D) 9 Magner 5 10 9 C Harmign V 9 151426 PAS OF JACKS (F127) (CD) P Hobbs 7 10 6 ... R Dumenody 10 5/F21. GUNGER DE GOOD (657) (CD) J K Crestwell 7 10 0 ... T Bey -10 decimal -4 Minimum weight 10st. True hardicap weight 9st 70.

BETTING: 7-2 Out 0 a A Promise, 11-2 Most Equal, Isalah, 13-2 Out Ramising, 8-1 Keep life is filled, Cooley's Valve, Pair Of Jacks, 14-1 others

8.05 JOHN AND NIGEL THORNE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 3m MILE THE MAJOR GENERAL (77) (D) G Nichards 10 12 10 ...

2 0-115.4 DESMOND GDLD (7) (D) K Pearst 9 12 0 ... Mr D 6 Joses (7) 1-1-100 FREMIND (25) (3) Mr D 6 Glosel (1) 2 0 ... Min C 6 Kinsel (7) 4 46-543 GNY BURFINN (13) Mr D D D 1 1 12 0 ... Min C 6 Chanel (7) 5 21:213 HILL SLAND (8) (D) C Suesting 10 12 0 ... Mr R 5 Sweeting (7) FPADIA (ROND (10) (5) (D) A J Mr R 10 12 0 ... Mr R A Minths (7) 7 532190 TARA BOY (9) (D) 9 Tengue 12 12 0 ... Mr R Canthroy (7) 8 R433-1 STELTOOD (4) (D) C Wilson 10 12 9 ... Mr C Wilson (7) -8 declared - BETTING: 11-4 The Major General, Hill Intand, 6-1 Desmond Gold, 7-1 Mino, Stilltodo, 8-1 Gay Reffiert, Turn Boy, 20-1 Faringb

8.35 AHP TRAILERS NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110 yds

Maramum neight 10st. Two handlap weight Woodback Lad Too Est 50s.

Returnite: 11-2 Gipsy Good, Snowedill Shalter, Sherton Mysile, 7-1 Stone-catter, Nadda, 8-1 Doorth, 10-1 The Lancer, 12-1 others

Herbert puts title challengers in the shade

Motor racing

DERICK ALLSOP reports from Monte Carlo

True to character, Johnny Herbert retained a sense of humour and realism as his team told him he was fastest in practice for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix. "Sorry it's the wrong day," he

Unofficial practice day - always Thursday rather than Friday here in the Principality - has the capacity to produce meaningless scenarios and the con- of the San Marino Grand Prix

test proper begins with tomor- a fortnight ago, that his com-

However, Herbert's elevation to the top of the Formula One practice charts for the first time after a century of races is a significant gauge of the progress he and the Sauber-Petronas have made in tandem.

Certainly there was nothing half-baked in the endeavours of Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve, the two drivers closest to the Englishman. And try suggesting to Heinz-Harald Frentzen, winner

mitment was diminished. He crashed his Williams-Renault into a barrier in vain pursuit of

Herbert's current driving is like his natural demeanour: a joy to encounter. He professes mself at home with Sauher; comfortable and appreciated. And, he says, the traumas of his life and career have insulated him against the pressures of F1.

Herbert explained: "I had to get over my accident in 1988 and then difficult times at Lotus and Benetton. There's a lot more

tougher now. Going through all I went through has helped me cope with today's F1, where you often find drivers head-to-head and criticising each other. We had it with Michael Schumacher and Damon Hill.

"I've not got myself involved in that sort of thing and I'm happier now than I have been for three or four years. I'm with a team where everyone is working to the same end."

Herbert, a resident of Monaco, is usually to be seen on these

wheel of his jeep or astride his Harley-Davidson. Local knowledge may well have helped yesterday, but at 180mph the familiar landmarks mean little.

He said: "Silverstone is still my real home track, but it is nice and special when you do well here. Everyone wants to win at Monaco. It's a great challenge, perhaps

the greatest challenge of all."

Damon Hill's objective this weekend is to finish a race for the first time in the Arrows-Yamaha. So far the champion's

mental warfare in F1 these days streets travelling within the le-and I've survived it because I'm gal speed limit of 25mph at the leading to speculation about his future. After taking ninth place yesterday, he sought to put the record straight on his supposed threat to quit the team unless they "get their act together". He said: "I've made no

threats, merely a statement of fact. I'm telling the situation as it is. We have had problems and the team know they have to be fixed. A huge amount needs to come if we are to he competitive by the middle of the season. I've got an open mind as far as next season is concerned, but at the moment I'm concentrating my efforts on Arrows."

Sussex put to sword by Brown

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Lord's Middlesex 490-9 dec Sussex 44-3

This match has so far flattered to deceive. But while two centuries and five wickets by a legspinner tends to imply cricketing perfection on a balmy summer's day. Lord's was anything hut an enticing prospect, as rain and cold winds kept spectators away and players wrapped up like Michelin men.

Only one place - a faulty hotplate in the Warner stand kitchen - was hotter than it ought to be and seven of London's finest fire engines soon had it under control. Play was not held up but the four occu-pants of the Warner stand had to temporarily find seating else-where as Keith Brown, Middlesex's second centurion, and Angus Fraser, with a hard-hit 35, made merry with a now wilt-

ing Sussex attack. It was the only time Brown in-dulged himself as he notched up an unbeaten 144, the 13th ton of a career that began in 1984 and his first since 1995. His palette of shors is narrow, extending to little beyond a powerful cut and the odd canny nudge. His stay lasted 90 overs before Mike Gatting declared at 490 for 9.

His overall contribution. however, runs far deeper and his role as hoth stumper and stalwart has been vital to Middlesex's efforts over the years. An uncomplaining rock at the heart of a volatile changing room, he is that dying breed, a consummate and avuncular senior pro.

Not too senior to take the bowling to task and he, along with Fraser, managed to strike a six to the shorter Grandstand boundary as the pair added 78 in 74 halls.

For Sussex, only Amer Khan, a muscular leg-spinner whose must apologise and the hoard action nods more towards lift the ban.

Phil Newport took four wickets

in 21 balls at Worcester to put the

county champions. Leicester-

shire, in some trouble on the sec-

and day of their Britannic

Assurance County Champion-

land bowler changed the course

of a rain-interrupted game as

Leicestershire subsided to 42 for

5 in reply to the home side's 257.

son at New Road, enjoyed a

spell of 4 for 20 in 12.5 overs.

David Graveney, England's new chairman of selectors, is plan-

ning to oversee a flexible fresh

approach to the continued de-

velopment of the national team.

encouraged, alongside specific

work with a player designed to

help him come to terms mentally

as well as physically with the de-

mands of the international game.

CATEGORY

Match 6 (Jackpot)

Match 5 plus bonus ball

Metch 5

Match 3

70TALS

Personalised coaching will be

Newport, now in his 16th sea-

The 34-year-old former Eng-

ship match yesterday.

ADAM SZRETER

home-town hero, Abdul Qadir, would have left the field a satisfied man. He may have end-ed the indings with 5 for 137, but vesterday's analysis of 4 for 66 from 20 overs, which included bowling with a slippery new ball, was just reward for perseverance within a dispirited attack clearly missing several of its hig

The disparity between these two sides became even more apparent when Middlesex bowled. But if Fraser, with his galumphing approach, was the man to do the damage on paper, it was his greener partner James Hewitt, operating from the Nursey End, who got his name into the scorebook

Bowling at little more than brisk medium, he nipped one back sharply up the slope to have Keith Greenfield lbw. Ten runs later, he struck again as he forced Neil Taylor into gloving a lifter behind.

The left-hander Toby Pierce followed soon after, the victim of a hlinding catch by Tufnell at point as he climbed into a longhop. If the seam bowlers keep this up Tufnell may have little to do, except apply himself in the field. The same cannot be said of Sussex, who will surely now struggle to save the followon, let alone the match. Aamir Sohail has apolo-

gised to the Pakistan Cricket Board in an attempt to have his two-year ban from international and domestic cricket lifted. A board spokesman said yesterday its council would meet within a week to decide whether to pardon Azmir or reduce the ban, imposed last month after a row with the board's chief executive, Majid Khan, Asmir's apology, described as unconditional by a board spokesman, follows a deal proposed last week by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's adviser on sports and culture, Mushahid Hussain, that Aamir

Newport to the fore

cliffe was lbw to the first hall af-

ter lunch, Aftab Habib and

Vince Wells edged successive deliveries, and Neil Johnson

Leicestershire had started

the day by taking Worcester-

shire's last four wickets for 58. Alan Mullally finished with 4 for

86 and Gavin Haynes was un-

beaten on 47 for Worcestershire.

rain and had light for a

sparkling half-century as Glou-

cestershire closed in on Hamp-

Graveney has changes in mind

like figure behind them -

someone who has been there

to help them all along - but

they may also need something

extra when they get to the in-

ternational arena," Graveney

has always had Don Shepherd

around at Glamorgan, hut on

"Robert Croft, for instance,

NO. OF WINNERS

1.035

522,039

552.770

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Oraw date: 7/5/97, The winning numbers: 12, 19, 28, 31, 34, 43. Bonus number: 40. Total Sales: £25,317,531. Prize Fund: £11,392,888 (45% of ticket seles).

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

in the quent of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot contral computer system shall provide

"Most players have a guru-

Lynch had put on 71 with

shire's 316 at Bristol.

Monte Lynch played through

also fell leg-before.

spanning two intervals and Rob Cunliffe (43no) when three hold-ups for rain Iain Sut-Gloucestershire accepted the of-



Present arms: Northamptonshire's Kevin Curran pads up to a delivery from Graham Rose on his way to 73 yesterday

Sharp Caddick comes in from the cold

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Northampton Northamptonshire 185 Somerset 23-3

One could only assume that the reason it did not snow for the second day running at the County Ground was that it was too cold. Andy Caddick managed to defy the unpleasant conditions and took his figures to 6 for 65

Gloucestershire accepted the of-

Earlier a stand of 77 for the

seventh wicket between Shaun

Udal and Bill Kendall boosted

Hampshire from their overnight

total of 221 for 6. Mike Smith's

slow left arm took 4 for 61 for

five years after a twice broken

kneecap, had to leave the field

after three overs of declining

speed. He headed for the treat-

ment room and was not seen

again. The official reason was "a

minor strain to the right calf.

last winter's tour the work July

him was very valuable.

Emhurev was able to do with

a player needs certain work, and

to make that available. Some-

times it will be with his county

coach, or someone within his

home county, but sometimes

ton he could benefit from an

£229,264

£51.972

"My aim is to identify when

David Lawrence, playing his

Gloucestershire.

fer of the light at 143 for 2

when Northamptonshire's last six wickets fell for 59 runs. In all, the weather allowed 33.4 overs. Bowling from the pavilion

end, Caddick was a nasty proposition for the Northamptonshire tail, which on this evidence starts all too early. The most important wicket, though that of Kevin Curran, fell to Graham Rose, hut Caddick had a hand in that, too, for he held an excellent low catch off a wild slash at square third man.

Caddick has started this season in excellent fettle and this may be another of Dermot Reeve's achievements now that he is in charge of the Somerset dressing room. If he can sort out Caddick's thinking, and see to it that his considerable talents are put to their best use, he will have done both England and

Somerset a great service. He bowled to a slightly fuller length than he had managed on

ARC Fraser b Khan

dangerous now that he was hringing the hatsmen on to the front foot. He used his height well and although he did not move the ball much he was extremely hostile. If he continues like this he will surely have a summer of Test cricket to look forward to.

Caddick took four of the last six Northamptonshire wickets and Rose, with whom Curran began by off-driving for six, the first day and lonked more the other two. The only real re-

sistance they met came from the last pair of Paul Taylor and Mohammad Akram, who held out for 10 overs while adding 27.

Somerset then faced 14 balls before the rain began again after tea, but when it relented there was still time for nine more overs. Akram, who is distinctly sharp, then had both the openers caught in the slips off tentative strokes and then produced a beauty which bowled Jason Kerr. the night-watchman.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY - First Innings 129 (G Welch 4-39),

(G Welch 4-39),

WARWICKSHIRE - First Innings

N V Kright c Buchanan b Battarbee 1

W G Khan c Wagh b Avens

11. Hemp b Battarbee

11. Poster libw b Avens

M J Poweli Ibw b Patel

G Welch b Patel

O R Brown c Wagh b Patel

A F Giles not out

N M K Smith not out

Extras 09 199 W 2 10 221

Extras (59 t59 w2 n522) 42
Total (for 7 dec, 68 overs) 297
Felt 1-39 2-57 3-T1 4-121 5-125 6-125

Did not bat: 1T Frost, M O Edmond. Bowling: Avers 22-5-97-2: Peter 19-2. 78-3: Battarbee 19-4-72-2: Wagn 6-1-18-0: Hudson 2-0-14-11.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY - Second Innings

To bet: J A G Futton, P G Morgan, C Patel, LG Buchanan, J M M Averis, C M Bat-

Bowling (to date): Welch 6-3-4-1; Brown 6-2-10-2.

Umphres: A G 7 Whitehead and P Willey.

Second XI Championship

Second day of three: 11.11 today

R II Hudson low b Brown

C G R Lightfoot c Knight b Brown ... a W Byrne not out

on the tour.

come on clay. In stark contrast, Boris Becker has never won a tournament on the surface in his otherwise illustrious career. He was also

Mantilla, 7-6, 6-2. Becker, Wimhledon champion three times, was frustrated by the spectacular passing shots of the Spaniard as he at-

Neither Becker nor Mantilla was happy when the umpire. Steve Ullrich, called a rain break at 6-6 in the tie-hreak. It drizzled lightly most of the day, and while Becker and Mantilla were sent to the locker rooms, play continued on

outside courts. When they returned, Mantilla passed Becker with a backhand. Becker broke his racket and served with a new one, but Mantilla hit another superb backband passing return off Becker's second serve that

CHELMSFORD: Essex 111 and 125 for 3; Durham 385 for 3 dec (S Hutton 159, In the second, a Becker forehand error put Mantilla a break PONTYPRIDD: Glamorgan 310 for S dec (M J Powell 102no, W L Lew 76); York-shire 81 for 2 (rain). up, and he whipped in another backhand passing shot to seize a 4-1 lead. A forehand winner gave Mantilla the match. Marceln Rios, champion in Monte Carlo last week, lost to

> rasategui, 6-4, 6-2. Martina Hingis, who injured her knee falling off a horse last month, says she expects to be fit for the French Open. The 16-year-old Swiss world No 1, has been forced to pull out of three tournaments since suffering the injury on 21 April . Despite fears that she could also miss the French Open, Hingis said that she was optimistic about making

CRICKET SCOREBOARD R L Johnson c Drakes b Khan ... J P Hewrit c Greenfield b Khan ...

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Giorce v Hampshire BRISTOL: Giorcestershire (4pts), with eight first-innings wickets standing, are 173 runs behind Hampshire (3). Today:

HAMPSHIRE - First Innings (Overnight: 221 for 6) W S Kendall low b Alleyne first game for Gloucestershire for Bowling: Smith 28-8-61-4; Lawrence 18-1-78-1; Young 25.3-11-43-3; Ball 22-

Umpires: G I Burgess and R A White.

Middlesex v Sussex LORO'S: Sussex (20ts), with seven first-limings wickets standing, are 446 runs behind Middlesex (5). Yoday: 11.0. MIDDLESEX - First Invines (Overnight: 337 for 5) tK R Brown not out P E Weilings c Drakes b Khan

£3.209.696

1987,522

£5,221,390

£11.329,722

Umpires: V A Holder and J H Hampshire. Northants v Somerset

NORTHABIPTON: Somerset (4pts), with seven first-inning wickets standing, are 162 runs behind Northamptonshire (1). Today: 11.0. Northamptonshire won toss

NORTHAMPTONSHIPE First Innings
(Overnight: 226 for 4)
K M Curren c Caddick b Rose 75
O J Capel b Caddick 22
J N Snape low b Caddick 22
J N Snape low b Caddick 25
J P Teyton to Caddick 37
S A J Boswell low b Caddick 37 Fall (cont): 5-134 6-155 7-156 8-156 9-158.

Bowling: Caddick 24.2-6-65-6; Shine 7-2-29-2; Rose 20-5-60-2; Ahmed 4-1-21-SOMERSET - First Innings M N Lathwell c Montgomene b Mohammad Akram ... M E Trescothick c Capel

A R Caddick not out Extras Total (for 3, 10.2 overs)... rate 1-8 2-13 5-19.
To bet M Burns, P.C.L. Holloway, †R.J. Turner, G.D. Rose, Mushtaq Ahmed, K.J. Shine, Bowling (to diste); Mohammad Akram 5.2-2-11-3; Taylor 5-1-12-0. Falt: 1-8 2-13 3-19. Umpires: T.E. Jesty and B.J. Meyer.

Worcester v Leicestershire WORCESTER: Lelcestershire (Apts), with five first-innings wickets standing, are 215 runs behind Worcestershire (4, Today: 11.0. Worcestershire won toss

the state of the s

A Shenyar c Dekin b Millns Extras (b6 lb8 w6 nb20) ... Total (88.2 overs) 257
Fell (cont): 1-201 8-232 9-236.
Sowing: Milins 18.2-6-53-3: Mullahy 28-3-86-4: Brimson 8-4-20-0; Johnson 21-4-61-3: Wels 6-3-10-0; Dakin 6-1-8-0; Meddy 1-0-5-0.

Umpires: J W Holder and K E Palmer. No play yesterday Today: 11.11

DERBY: Derbyshire v Durham. HARTLEPOOL: Notice than 170 (C M Tokey 54; A Walker 7-56); Durham 115 for HEADINGLEY: Glamorgan 213 for 1 v York-

Other first-class matches

Second day of three Cambridge Univ v Essex FENNERS: Essex, with seven first-in-hings wickets standing, are 63 runs be-hind Cambridge University. Today: 11.0. CAMEREDGE (ANVERSITY - First limings 265 for 9 dec (A Singh 134, ET Smith 72; 11 R Law 5-93).

Umpires: B Dudieston and M K Reed. Oxford Univ v Warwickshire

THE PARKS: Oxford University, with seven second-innings wickets standing are 147 runs behind Werwickshire, Today: Oxford University won fass

11,252

TODAY'S

NUMBER

The number of spectators who watched Sunderland's youth team beat Middlesbrough youth 2-1 in the final of the Northern Intermediate League Cup at Roker Park on Wednesday night, Supporters were admitted free to mark the closure of the ground next week.

Custom Made makes mark

Equestrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY

reports from Badminton David O'Connor made asal factory start to the Badinialo Horse Trials on Custom Made with whom he was leading

ter the dressage here last year

before finishing the contest in

third place. This time the US rider share the lead at the end of the first day of dressage with Linda Algors son, a 25-year-old maths teacher.

from Sweden. This is Algotsson's first ap pearance at Badminton, but she shows no signs of being; over-awed by the big occasion. She intends to take all the quick routes on 16-year-old Lafayett when she tackles the

cross-country tomorrow.
O'Connor's Irish-bred mount became a little excited yesterday before the second flying change, a new movement in three-day event dressage which requires the horse to change his leading leg at canter without coming back to trot. Change Made was otherwise polished. and responsive to his rider.

Paddy Muir is lying third and best of the British on her greet gelding, Archie Brown, who fin-ished ninth here last year. Close behind comes Daisy Dick. (the 25-year-old daughter of former Grand National winner, Dave Dick) on Headley Bravo.

New Zealand's Olympic champion, Blyth Tait, is lying equal seventh on Chesterfield despite the horse making a few errors through being tense. Like everyone else, Tait is pleased with the going that has been greatly improved by the use of an aerator, which provided holes for the recent rain to drain into firm ground.

Both Leslie Law on Capitano (now 38th) and Ian Stark on Arakai (26th) had disappointing tests, but they each have another chance when they ride their

er chance when they into their second horses today, amistinish morous babilianion horse trials. Standings after first they of dreaming 1 Lateyet (Lalgoisson, Swe) and Custom Made (D O'Connor, US) 48,6; 3 Artitle Brown IP Muir. GBI 49.4; 4 Headley Brow (D Dick, GBI) 49.6; 5 Darien Power IA Noy, Aus) 52.0; 6 Beta (T Colins, Ben) 53.4.

Defeat for Muster

Thomas Muster, for so long regarded as virtually unbeatable on clay, was surprisingly beaten on his favourite surface when he lost 6-1, 6-2 to Hicham Arazi in the third round of the German Open yesterday. Arazi, a 23-year-old Moroccan who is based in France, has won only one title in his four years.

Muster, No 3 in the world, compiled a 111-5 record on clay in 1995-96, including a 40-match winning streak, the second longest in the open era. Of his 44 career titles, 40 have

beaten, going down to Felix

tempted to progress in an event he has failed to win 11 times.

clinched the set.

another Spaniard, Alberto Be-

her return at the Grand Slam tournament starting 26 May. Results, Digest, page 29

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Cotto

CHRIS HEVET Two years as ... scribed the man

fering a small service. The nexas, 2.

rran College, er has circu 2012 . . . club with a mismana.car. ic manupulation er nelam es ... first-deares -- -Sations, were the supror: C --emon's desired

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holders a line for the same on Sunda miernations / Live ing complete: -a colf injury wrates Religions Clifton also says full strength for ession of the Wei-Rachel O Brush (Agent) fore a national ireend. However " management hed discipline O'Br. and

again before Septement. Edwards re

likely to join the more

lost as Tracy Edinards Vendee Globe hen *Southampton Vesters not difficult traking challenges ting made harder a writes Stuart Mexa-Edwards, 34, val. Rhode lyand and of a hid nationer.

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O'Connor puts pain behind him

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Tida Cooper

ANDY FARRELL reports from Thame

After 27 years on the tour, Christy O Connor Jnr thought a year away would do him some good. Fat chance. "The whole family are steeped in golf," he said. "I was the only one in the house not playing. I watched the boys on televisioo and I missed

O'Connor proved his successful return from a nasty bout of tennis elbow in his left arm with a 68 in the first round of the Benson & Hedges International. He was one behind the New Zealander Greg Turner. while Colin Montgomeric, Ian Woosoam and Bernhard Langer, in their own ways, all

A Ryder Cup hero at The Belfry in 1989, O'Connor made a dramatic comeback, after being involved in a helicopter crash, by winning the British Masters in 1992. Since then he has suffered from Morson's Metarsalgia, a painful foot condition, and in November 1995 was afflicted by tennis elbow.

A cheque for £3,800 for 54th place in the Volvo PGA was the sum total of the 11 tournaments he played last year. After six months and £12,000 worth of unsuccessful treatment, Conor O'Brien, the Irish Olympic doctor, put O'Connor under the laser. "It was very severe but it put me back on the road to playing golf," O'Connor said.

"It was like placing your band on a red hot grill. You could smell the skin burning. It double bogey, birdie, "We're

was black for two days. But hav-ing a full-body MRI scan was even worse. It was an awful sensation. I wanted to die. I pressed the red emergency button to get

O'Connor, who will join his famous uncle Christy Snr on the Seniors tour next year, could not hold a cup of coffee in his left hand but has gradually huilt up his strength in that arm and returned to the tour in Dubai in February. Yesterday he collected four hirdies, did oot drop a shot and missed twice from inside four feet. "I am playing nicely and enjoying it," he said. "I know exactly how [Jose Maria] Olazabal must have felt, especially him being so young. I really missed it."

The Irishman made his score in the morning and despite the temperature rising - well, rel-atively - and the rain holding off in the afternoon, no one chal-lenged Turner's 67. The Kiwi arrived on Tuesday to find a light smattering of snow covering the course and decided against a practice round. He was not in the pro-am oo Wednesday, either, hut warmed by a pair of long johns, bought by his wife Jane, his only dropped shot came at the ninth, his last hole. where he was short of the green

with two drivers. While Woosnam's round cootained two birdies and 16 pars. Montgomerie was far from his consistent self. Having had three birdies and one hogey on the back nine, which he played first, he then played the front half; bogey, bogey, bogey, birdie, hirdie, birdie, hirdie,

playing a hig golf course and eight hirdies suggests some-thing is going right," Moot-gomeric said. "but all those bogeys suggests there's far too much going wrong."

The main problem was com-

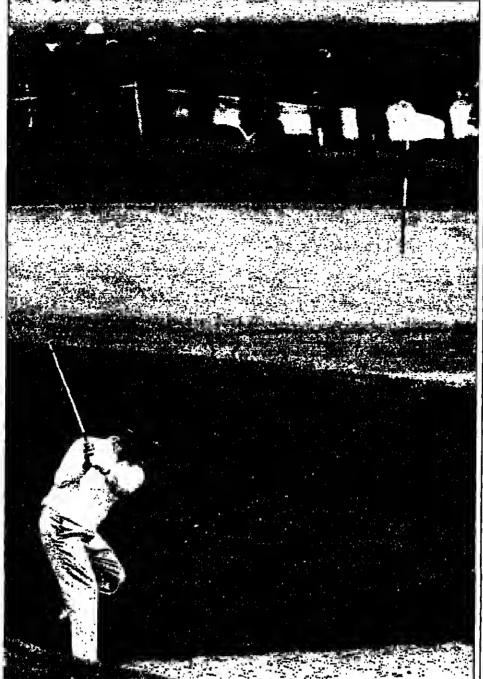
ing up short with his short-irons. At the eighth, where he took six, Monty had 130 yards to the flag and hit it only 80 into a lake. There are plenty of man-made water hazards on the course but there is no need to dye them blue since they turn that colour with the cold. Montgomerie's face turned a deeper shade of red. "Something is not right and I'll phone my coach when I get home tonight," the Scot said. "It's probably an easy fault to cure, it's just finding the cure."

Woosnam did not drop a shot but was never going to pick up too many, either. "I played steady, but I didn't hole anything," said the Welshman, who only missed three greens. His long approach putt at the last tinkered on the edge of the bole and then decided to stay above ground a little longer.

ground a little longer.

BENSON AND MEDGES INTERNATIONAL
OPEN (The Oxfordshire, Theme) (Ed or it
unless stated): 67 G Turre (NZ), 69 C O'Connor Jrr. 69 J Lomes, D Clarite, A Coltar, L Westwood, R Goosen (SA), P Mitchel, P Sjoland
(Sare), 3 May (NS), 70 C Suneson (Sp), C Montgornene, P Lawne. B Langer (Gerl, P Benadhuss, D Howel, K Vamolio (Fin, D Borresp (So),
N Fosto (Swe), 73 P (Junc) (Swit), R Boxal,
J Cocens (Arg.), (Barrido (So), D Giford, D Cooper, P Hedblom (Swe), P Eales, T Bjorn (Den),
R Kartsson (Swe), J Spence, G Ermerson. 72
J Robson, P Proe, R Raffery, MA Martin (So),
P MoGring, M A Jimenox (So), D Robertson,
S Webster, J Payne, (Pyman, F Roca (Sp),
Feau (So), S Bolietstone (Sp), P Briter, K Erikson (Swe), S Allan (Aus), J Haeggman (Swe).
73 R Muntz (Netth), S Richardson, M McNulty (Zim), A Forstrand (Swe), D Cole (Aus),
Walton, R Wilsion, J Murray, E Canonica (II),
S Struker (Sex), W Wester (SA), P Hernington, M James, E Darry, I Mosey, E Romero

Langer (Sex), D Martay, E Robert (So), D Hernington, M James, E Darry, I Mosey, E Romero



Seve Ballesteros hits out of a bunker yesterday at Thame Photograph: David Ashdown

Bassett to take over from Pearce

Football

Stuart Pearce, as expected, is to step down as Nottingham Forest's manager. He said yesterday he could not devote enough time to the rebuilding job need-ed after the club's relegation from the Premiership.

Pearce, who will carry on playing for the club, thinks Forst need to bring in new blood before next season's First Divi-sion campaign, but the England full-back is handing that responsibility to Dave Bassett, who moves across from his role as general manager following Forest's final Premiership game at Newcastle on Sunday.

'I feel as though some rehuilding needs doing at the club and, with the constraints on my time from international commitments, I am not going to have the time to go out and scout for players." Pearce said. "I'm not really prepared to sit back and take someone else's word for it on players."

Pearce, who became caretaker player-manager in December when Frank Clark left, said he had made his decision some time ago and that Forest's relegation had not had a bearing on it.

Michael Owen, the Liverpool striker, heads the 23-man England youth party from which the coach, Ted Powell, will name his squad for oext month's World Youth Champiooships in Malaysia. Injuries and the need for rest mean Leicester's Emile Heskey and Everton's Michael Branch will not take part in the championships, which start on 16 June. England are drawn against

Mexico, the United Arab Emi-rates and the Ivory Coast. Wolves could be without six players for tomorrow's First Division play-off semi-final first leg at Crystal Palace. There are doubts over two midfielders, Simon Osborn and Neil Embler: two strikers, Don Goodman and Iwan Roberts; and two defenders, Adrian Williams and

Stephen Froggatt.
Bradford City's goalkeeper. Aidan Davison, has been recalled to the Northern Ireland squad for the friendly match against Thailand in Bangkok on 21 May. His only international appearance came in the 2-I defeat by Swe-den in a friendly match at Windsor Park last April. Neither of coach Bryao

Hamilton's first two choices, Alan Fettis and Tommy Wright, is available for the match, so Wigan's Roy Carroll will be Davisoo's understudy.

Northern Ireland and England youth squads, Digest, Page 29

A grand day out for the unsung heroes

Non-League notebook

RUPERT METCALF

Next week the likes of Juninho and Zola will be preparing to play in the FA Cup final but tomorrow it is the turn of Paul Pitman, Steve Brentano and 20 or so other players to enjoy a day out at Wemhley. Like last year, the FA Carls-

berg Vase final hrings together two clubs from northern England: Whithy Town and North Ferriby United. For Whitby it is the culmination of a triumphant season in which they have won the Federation Brewery Northpromotion to the UniBond an apprentice with Arsenal. events of 1993, when they won the Northern League for the first time but were denied promotion by an unfortunate outhreak of

inter-league politics. Whitby's main man up front is Pitman, who scored a lastminute winner in the Vase semifinals to see off Banstead Athletic, Pitman has been with the North Yorkshire club for 12 who has halted the sale of their years and has scored well over

300 goals for them. Their manager is Harry Dunn, who helped to build the Scarborough side taken in to the Football League by Neil Warnock. He also played for Scarborough in two FA Trophy finals.

North Ferriby, from the Northern Counties East League, are captained by Brentano, who along with his team-mate Boh-by McNeill, won the Vase with Bridlington Town in 1992. Their squad also includes two other men to taste Vase glory: Andy Flounders with Brigg, who beat Clitheroe last season, and Mark Tennison with Guiseley in 1991. The East Yorkshire cluh's playern League and have secured er-manager is Tim Hotte, once

> two Staffordshire clubs. Eastwood Hanley are to fold at the end of the season due to moutning dehts while Stafford Rangers, who slid from the GM Vauxhall Conference to the Dr Marteos League Midland Di-vision during the last two years, have been taken over by a local husinessman, David Parker, Marston Road ground.

Cotton's eruption clouds final **Rugby Union** chairman, centre on the £87.5m lawyers from both sides are executive chairmanship. Twick-

CHRIS HEWETT

Two years ago, Will Carling described the membership of the Rugby Football Union as "57 old farts" and, in the process, succeeded in turning the Pilkington Cup final into a side issue. Tomorrow's Twickenham showpiece is in danger of suffering a similar fate, thanks to In turn, the RFU's disciplinary the latest cruption of malodor- committee is investigating a ous hot air from the bowels of leak of confidential documents

Reform Group, headed up by Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, has circulated every English club with allegations of RFU mismanagement, updemocratic manipulation and every other nefarious activity short of first-degree murder. The accusations, which carry the full support of Cliff Brittle, the union's disenchanted executive broadcasting deal with BSkyB, the signing of which is imminent. Cotton and his colleagues

have repeatedly claimed that Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, misled member clubs over the terms contained in the interim Heads of Agreement - in particular, on the issues of payper-view and scheduling - and have called for his resignation:

dicted Cotton and his colleagues would soon be wiping liberal amounts of egg from their faces. "We have a veto on pay-per-view and it is enshrined in black and white in the final BSkvB contract," said ooe. "There is no possibility of pay-per-view being introduced without our writteo consent. The

close to finalising the agreement and the sooner we can go public with it, the better."

While the Reform Group continued to insist that the broadcasters' would hold the whip hand over the scheduling of England international matches - in reality, BSkyB have dictated the timing of league matches since they started their live coverage of domestic club rugby three seasons ago - the RFU pointed to its own im-The newly-constituted RFU and put the entire deal at risk. tials: four general meetings, a commission on the future of the Yesterday, RFU sources pregame, an independent study and two reports into administra-

tive structures, all instigated within the first 18 months of professionalism. It now seems certain that more blood will be spilled at the annual meeting in July, at which the RFU intends to support a direct challenge to Brittle's

enham is also pulling its wagons into a circle around Hallett, who remains the No I target for Cotton and his rebels,

John Fowler, the injured Sale lock, has withdrawn from England's two-Test trip to Argentina after a straw-clutching visit to a faith healer failed to repair damaged knee ligaments. Northampton's Martin Bayfield dropped out on Wednes day because of groin trouble.

Graham Dawe, the Cornish hooking duel with Brian Moore dominated English front-row play for the hest part of a decade, has retired from topclass rugby with Bath at the age of 37. Capped five times by his country, Dawe, who has strug-gled with thumb and elbow injuries throughout his testimonial season, said: "The

old body is telling me some-

thing. It's time to say goodbye."

dent Nelson Mandela. Gulfit enjoys a special place in South African sports his-tory after the dedication of his 1987 Eu-ropean Footballer of the Year award to the then-imprisoned South African leader.

SPORTING DIGEST

Wright gives Wigan an extra man

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan make a team change for their match against the London Broncos tonight that virtually amounts to acquiring a new

Nigel Wright will start a league match for the first time since August 1995, after overcoming a horrific series of injuries. Wright most four years at Wigan, but the need for another creator to lift part of the hurden from Andy Farrell means that their coach, Eric Hughes, wants him on the field from the kick-off tonight.

Wright will play stand-off outside Tony Smith, which also means that he will be in direct opposition to Shaun Edwards, on his first return visit to Central Park since his transfer to London.

kept out of his usual position by the form of the Broncos' scrumhalf, Josh White, who was this week named as the winner of the Stones Gold Award as the Super League player of the month for April. Wigan will have Lee Hansen making his full debut and Hen-

ry Paul back in action at full-back

Edwards continues to be

after the back injury that kept him out for most of last month, hie, will he missing for up to six weeks, starting with Sunday's vital Super League game with their Wembley conquerors, St Helens. The Bulls' captain has not broken a bone in his foot, as was

first feared, but ligament damage will keep him out for at least a month. The Bradford forward, Sonny Nickle, will be out for a similar length of time after refracturing his arm at Wembley.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Rugby League STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Wigan v London (7.30). Second Division: Lampachire Lyra v Leich (7.30).

Speedway

EITE LEASUR: Belle Vue v Poole (7.30); Poter-brough v Converty (7.30).

PREMIER LEASUR: Arena Esten v Newport (8.0); Oddor 4 Nel (7.45). Knockoet Cept Edinburgh v Shefferd (7.30).

Other sports

Ipswich start at full strength

Ipswich, the defending cup holders, will be at full strength for the semi-final visit of Clifton on Sunday, the former England international Vickey Dixon having completely recovered from a calf injury, writes Bill Colwill. Clifton also expect to be at

full strength following the de-cision of the Welsh defender Rachel O'Bryan to put club before a national training week-end. However, the Welsh management has decided to discipline O'Bryan, who is unlikely to join the national squad agam hefore September.

While Hightown will start as favourites in the other semi-final against Doncaster, and will he looking for a good run-out with next weekend's European Cup Championship in mind, they will be conscious of the

The final is at Milton Keynes on 25 May. Ofton will be looking for their third successive title in the Women's Under-19 Club Championship at Milton Keynes tomorrow. The strongest opposinon in the five-team roundrobin event is expected to come

8-2 League drubbing Doncast-er inflicted earlier in the season.

from Harleston Magpies. **Edwards ready for records**

Just as Tracy Edwards was celebrating the re-christening of her 92-foot catamaran by the Vendée Globe hero, Pete Goss, in Southampton yesterday, the most difficult of her recordbreaking challenges looked like being made harder by a Frenchman, writes Stuart Alexander.

Edwards, 34, sails to Newport, Rhode Island, on Monday ahead of a bid next month to break the transatlantic record of six days, 13 hours, three

minutes set by the another Frenchman, Serge Madec, in Jet Services in 1990.

But the main event is the round the world time set by the boat she has bought and refur-bished as Royal & Sun Alliance. As Enza, it won the Jules Verne Trophy in 1994 with a time of 74 days, 22hr 17min 22sec. That record is now under threat from Olivier de Kersauson, whose 90-foot trimaran Sport-Elec is 800 miles ahead of Enza's equivalent position

Chiappucci fails blood test from Le Locle to Estavayer-le-

Claudio Chiappucci, a leading Italian rider, was forced out of the Tour of Romandie yesterday after failing a blood test. His licence has been suspended for 15 days, when he will be re-tested. The suspension means Chiappacei, nicknamed El Diablo, will wiss the Giro d'Italia.

International Cycling Union officials tested Chiappucci and Several other riders before the mita and Luca Colombo, and 173-kilometre second stage France's Erwan Membeour.

with 12 days to go.

Blood tests were introduced in January to help combat the use of EPO (erythropoietin) and injectable blood-doping substances that simulate altitude training by increasing oxygen-rich red blood cells. If a rider's level is over 50 per cent, he is suspended.

Chiappucci is the fourth to fail blood tests this season after his fellow Italians, Mauro Santaro-

lac in Switzerland.

Athletics

The nine-member East Asian Games Association decided yesterday to allow Australia to enter the third East Asian Games in Osaka in 2001. The decision is only for Osaka and does not mean Australia for Osaka and does not mean Australia will be allowed to join the association," It said in a news release. The decision came ahead of tomorrow's opening of the second East Asian Games in the porticity of Pusan for a nine-day run. China, Talwan, South Korea, Mongolia, Guam, Kazakstan and Macau voted for Australia's participation in Osaka. The other two members, Japan and Hong Kong, abstained.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Milwaukse 1 Onidend
O; Boston 11 Minnesota 3; Clevidend 7 Toronto 1; Detroit 12 Kenets City 3; Betimore 3
Anaheim C; New York Yankes 5 Texas 2. Postponed: Chicago White Sox v Seattle.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Fancisco 3 Monteal 19; Fonds 2 Atlanta 3 (LD Inshingt); Houston 1 New York Mets 4: St Lous 14
Philadelphia 7; Colorado 3 Philaburgh 14; Los
Angeles 4 Cancinneti 2; San Diego 8 Chicago Cubs 3.

Basketball

Chester Jets have re-signed forward Ri-cardo Leonard for next season's Bud-weiser Basketball League. Keeping the player makes Chester contenders for honours in England. Jets expect to announce that their guard

Amiliary Scott will remain with the team, and the club are trying to re-sign the centre Billy Singleton, as well as rising England talent Matt Mealdn. England talent Matt Meakin.
Thames Valley have agreed terms with
the centre Jeson Siemon for the 199798 season. Siemon spent the first part
of last year in Belgium before joining
the Tigens late in the season.
NBA Second-round play-off results: Eastem Conference seas-Brains Miami 79
New York 88 (New York lead best-of-seen
saries 1-0). Western Conference seas-Bnais: Houston 101 Seattle 106. (Series levef at 1-1).

Cycling
TOUR OF ROMANDIE Second stage
(173km, Le Locle to Estatages-te-Luc, Swit;
1 M Copolisi (ii) 4hr 21min 46sec; 2 M Teversoni (ii); 3 F Baldoni (ii); 4 S Textenberg
(Geri; 5 E Delder (Neth); 6 M Merzoni (ii);
7 Z Sputch (Pol); 2 G Terraggin (ii); 9 G Colombo (ii); 10 P Lumianchi (ii); 11.4 Shestov (flus);
12 G Messagis (ii); 13 A Nice (ii); 14 P Saciddii (ii) (ivezzal leading pisterings; 1.0 Boardman (520) 92 C 20m 46c; 2 E Breuterik (Meth)
+2sec; 3 D Baranovski (Pol); 4; 4 Saciddii (4; 5 G Guerri (ii) +5; 5 J Buyned (Bel)
+6; 7 P Meiner-Netleen (Den); 49; 8 G Di
Gende (ii) same time; 3 Sismov +14; 10 3
Zberg (Swit) +15.

Footbali

South Africa will host the Netherlands on 4 June in the third amusel Netson Mandela Insuguration Challenge match. It will mark South Africa's 50th in-ternational match since its return to the international scene five years ago. South Africa is expected to have a full squad for the game, which will serve as a warm-up for a World Cup qualifier against Zambra on 8 June. The Dutch are expected to bring a squad which in-cludes Ritud Guilit, His inclusion comes at the request of South African PresiIce hockey phia 4 Buffalo 1 (Philadelphia lead best-of-seven series 3-0). Western Conference semi-finalis; Edmonton 4 Colorado 3 (Colorado

teader.
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION SQUAD (Representative Match v Highland League, Cove Rangers FC, tomorow): Stowert (Southport), MacKeuzie (Famborough), Bignot (Vidderminster), Prindiville (Kidderminster), Butterworth (Rushden & Darmords), Cousins (Yeova), Ellender (Gainsborough Trinty), Bloren (Enfield), Tenry (Altricham), South (Steverage), Cramman (Rushden & Demonde), Hartow (Fernborough), Hartow (Fornborough), Harto (Naciemunsten), O'Comour (Hednestord).

NOETHERN RELAND SQUAD (for friendly v Thelland, Banglonk, 21. May): Davison (Bracford), Carroll (Wagar), Griffle (St. Johnstone), McGlibbon (Wigar), Horlook (Man Chy), Loones (West Hern), Hill (Leicesten), Gillemple (Newceste), McCarrity (Port Vale), Lannon (Leicesten), Dowle (West Hern), Culm (Blackpool), Mulryon (Manchester Utt), McGlishon (Slock), Pattberson (Luton), Jealdon (Chester), Whittey (Manchester City).

Cityl.

ENGLAND TRAINING SQUAD (for File World Youth Champlomship, Mainysta, 1.6 June to S July's Laces (Preston), Wright (Ipsaich), Tyler (Peterbornugh), Crowe (Arzena), Broomes (Rickburd, Curtis (Man Iut), Wallwork (Man Iut), Ferdinand (West Hern), Jackson (Lecela), Gerffin (Stoke), Onaldey (Southempton), Carragher (Lerepool), Morries (Chelsea), Dyer (Ipsaich), Bridges (Suries (Chelsea), Dyer (Ipsaich), Bridges (Suries (Ricke), Stephend (Leods), Bridges (Suriesfield (Med), Decros (Coverny), Owen (Liverpool), Millen (Tottenham), Humphreys (Shejbeld (Med), Decros (Coverny), Owen (Liverpool)

(Shelfield Wen), Decroes (Coverny), Owen (Liverpool).

FA CARI ING PREMITERSHEP SUSPENSIONS Sendings Off: D Robertie (Chelcen) 3 matches from 12 May, 1 Collies (Aston Ville) 1 match from 14 May.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Laicester 1 (Elliott 86) Shelfield Wednesday D. Belf's Scottist Langue Premier Division: Leeds Uni 3 Derby County D. First Division: Chesterfield 3 Rochdale 1 Langue Cup Smalt Stoke City 3 York City 1 (set). Avec Insurance Combination First Division: Cardiff 2 Chairtan 2; Liston 5 Chelsea 2; Milhelli 2 Norwich 1; Southampton 2 Wirmbiedon 1; West Ham 3 Watford 3. Friendly: Merthyr Tydi 2 Derby County 4. Leis Langue Full Menchers' Cap Smalt Aylesbury D Meldenheed 3 (at Marlow). Leuson Eastern Langue Premier Division: Wisboch 5 Lowestoft 1. Winstonlead Kent League: Steppey ID Coy Wenderers 0. WORLD CUP GROUP MINE (Gent): Usrane 1 (Shescherko 6) Armsola 1 (Petrosyen 75). UEFA CUP FINAL FRIST LEC: Schalke 04 (Milnots 70) Hall Chemstonnie 0. DUTCH LEAGUE: Span Rolterdam 1 (D de Noojer 34) PSV Endhoven 3 (Cocu 24, De Bilde 58, 88); Gronnigen 1 (Mayro pen TD) Ajez 1 Schulp 76).

Aga: 1 Signup 169.

DUTCH CUP FINAL Rode JC Verkrade 4 (S-bon 5, Senden 16, Van de Luer 49, Schops 59) Hearenteen 2 (Komeyer 12, Talan 83).

DANSH CUP FINAL: FC Copenhagen 2 (Hemmingsen 72, D Nielsen 84) Bast D.

scred for at least the next three years uy MasterCard.
BEKO TURKISH SENIORIS OPEN (Autobyo)
Leading first round scores: 68 J Carr (15);
89 T Horino, C Evans (15), M Bernbridge; 70
J Björnsson (Swel, A Gamdo (Sp); 71 J Gitternan (US), J Hudson, B Huggett, I Fictanison, G Partinik R Bors (US), A Croce (ID), B
Waates, R Campagnoli Itb. by MasterCard.

NHL second-round Stanley Cup play-off: Eastern Conference semi-finals: Philadel-

Judo

ELIROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Ostend)
WOMEH's 672 kg, first round: M Reigns (Gs)
bit E Patsou (Gre); Quarter-final: Rogers for
the Evature (Fe); Rogers quadries for the sonifinals tomorow). 672 kg, quarter-finals: Coven qualfiles for Saturday semi-finals; Minus 68 kgs,
second round: K Howey (GB) bit R Srake
(Gor) bit Howey (Howey goes into repechage
semi-final tomorowin. Minus 48 kgs, first
round: J Heron (GB) bit I. Moise (Rom); Quarter-final Heron for Danette (Inaly) (Horon); Quarter-final final (Googla) bit R Bitch (CB), u50kgs,
second round: R Marmedov (Belanus) bit J
Johnson (GB). Repechage second round:
Johnson (GB). Repechage second round:
Johnson for G Wenzel (Jut). (Johnson qualfiles for repechage semi-final tomorrow). Judo

A coult yesterday told Alberto Tomba, the Italian sider, to pay \$6,000 for throwing a glass trophy at a photographer in 1995. The judge in Botzano gave Tom-ba a sentence of two months and 20 days in prison, converted into a six mil-lion lire fine plus four million lire in costs. Hatten photographer Aldo Martinuzzi is also suing the former Olympic and world champion. Tomba lobbed a magnum of wine, which missed Martinuzzi, and a glass trophy at the photographer in De-cember 1995 from the podium in Alta Badia after finishing third in a World Cup

Speedway

The three-times British champion Andy Smith is returning to his former club Coverny. Without a club this season are for failing to regain his piace at Brad-ford, he returns to Brandon after an 18-month absence and teams up with 18-morter assence and teams up with his younger brother Paul for the third time in his career. Smith, who will turn out for the Elite League dub at Peterborough tonight, replaces former world finalist Simon Cross. Ha has been dropped after a string of low scores.

ELITE LEAGUE: Poole 3T Bradford 53. PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Long Esson 32 Arene Essex 27 (abandoned efter 11) heats because of rain; Hull 37 Stoke 35 (abandoned after 12 heats because of rain but result

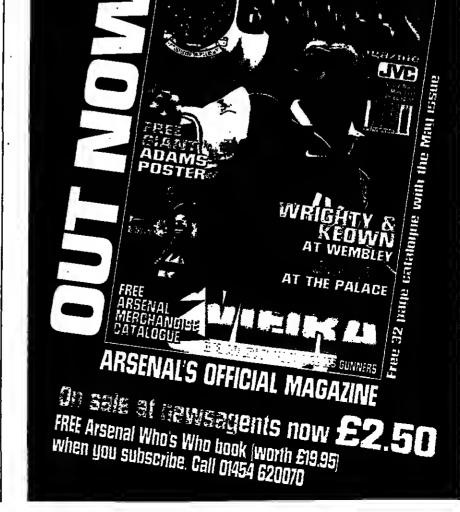
GERMAN OPEN MEN'S TOURNAMENT (Namburg) Studies, Second round: Wayne Ferreira (SA) bt Alberto Mertin (Sp) 3-6 7-5 7-5; Serga Brugera (Sp) bt leff Tarango (US) 4-6 6-3 6-2; Jacobo Diaz (Sp) bt Paul Haarhuis (Neth) 6-2 3-6 7-5; Andrat Medvedev (Rus) bt Richard Kraptok (Neth) 6-1 6-1, 7-6; Alberto Costa (Sp) bt Sjerrg Schalken (Neth) 6-3 7-6 7-3; Alex Corretins (Sp) bt Franciso Cavet (Sp) 3-6 6-4 7-5. Third round: Tommy Haas (Ger) beat Olwer Gooss (Ser) 5-7 7-5 6-3; Heltenn Araz (Mar) bt Thomas Muster 6-1, 6-2; Felts Man-The British professional tour will be spon-(Mor) bt Thomas Muster 6-1 6-2; Felts Man-tilla (Sp.) bt Bons Becker (Ger) 7-6 8-6; Al-berto Berassegui (Sp.) bt Mercelo Roos (Chi)

6-4 6-1; Bruguera bt Ferreira 6-1 6-3; Medvedev bt Diaz 6-3 6-2; Albert Costa bt Cometja 6-4 6-4; Yavgery Kafeinikov (Rus) beat Slava Dosedel (Cz Rep) 6-2 6-1. Football ITALIAN OPEN WORKEN'S TOURNAMENT (Rome) Singles, third round: Joannette Kruger (SA) best Karina Habsudova (Stov) 6-2 6-4; Fina Spirice (Rom) by Domintque Van Roost (Belg) 6-1 6-3; Conchitz Mar-tinez (Sp) best Elena Likhovtseva (Rus) 6-2-6-1

Merie singles second round: L Miligan (GB) bt 11 Rodti (Mex) 6-3 6-2; A Belotrajdic (Aus) bt M Bok (Hof) 2-6 8-0 6-3, I Neumusier (Aut) bt J Delgado (GB) 6-4 3-6 7-6, O Sapsford (GB) bt V Snyman (SA) 8-2 6-2. J Weighzer (Ger) bt C Beccher (GB) 6-1 6-2; B Gilber (Graups S Burma (Im) 6-4 3-6 T. Weinbert (Ger) bt C Beccher (Gir) 6-1 6-2; R Gilbert (Fra) bt S Barron (Inc) 6-4 3-6 T-6; J Chouvin (Fra) bt M Smejda (Aur.) 6-4 6-4; T Spirks (GB) bt C Auffray (Fra) 6-4 6-4; Women's singles quarterflanks: J Ward (GB) bt C Taylor (GB) 6-4 3-1 ret; M Lamarre (Fra) bt à Auer (Aur.) 6-2 4-6 7-5; L Ahi (GB) bt K Warne-Holland (GB) 4-6 6-1 6-1; J Steck (SA) bt J Choudhury (GB) 6-1 6-2.

26-1.
AMERICA'S RED CLAY CHAMPIONSHIP
(Coral Springs' Calif) Second round:
Jonas Bjotoman (Swe) br Luke Jersen (US)
6-16-2; Stree Campbell (US) br Byton Block
(Zm) 3-6 6-4 6-3; Juan Albert Vilocs (Sp)
1-2-1-18 Exchariticsom (Sun) 5,4 6-3; Syr FED CUP: Europe/Africa group two (Antalya, Barkey Pool A: Britan 3 Armens II (British names first): C Wood bt A Whalaten 6-1 6-2: S Smith bt S Saringulian 6-0 6-3; C Wood and L Woodroffe bt Saringulian and N Santrosian 6-2 6-3. LIA SPRING SATELLITE (Lee-on-Solent)

JVC ADAMS POSTER WEIGHTY & KEOWN AT WEMBLEY 141 AT THE PALACE



s a la la liboro

Schumacher on learning curve beside the se

FRIDAY 9 MAY 1997 - THE INDEPEND

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> government House accounting the second Mr B.a. jor and other -Liberal Dem CTE used a P launch his party daroness Tra Major neg to meet lously for uncertain

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Venice in peril Police scaled in St. Mark's and men who had уарогено, юд.

Rangers rush to be ready for Europe

Football

Rangers have 77 days to prepare for a midsummer Champions' League roulette which could leave them dumped out of Enrope before they even begin the

pursuit of "Ten-in-a-Row". That was the stark reality for manager Walter Smith yesterday as he geared up for arguably the biggest overhaul in his 11year stay at Ibrox. Smith reluctantly left behind the afterglow of equalling Celtic's nine consecutive Scottisb titles to look ahead to the chilly prospect of European elimination.

He must a int a successor to Richard Gougn as captain, wrap up perhaps four signings to add to Jonas Thern and Tony Vidmar, and wrestle with scheduling which could leave top play-ers with just a fortnight's break. And everything must be in

place by 23 and 30 July when Rangers will enter the European Cup pre-qualifying round with no margin for error. "If you go out at that stage you are out of Europe, period," said Smith.

"It is only if you get through to the preliminary round, which includes the runners-up from Europe's top six nations, that

you get a place in the Uefa Cup.
"The candidates for that stage at the moment are the likes of Barcelona, Parma, Bayer Leverkusen and Liverpool, Arsenal or whoever from England.

"We can't run away from the fact that our record in Europe should be better. We've qualified three times for the group stages which is oxay but we haven t acquitted ourselves well enough there. It is a challenge we must take on and everybody wants us to raise our standards in Europe." Smith disagrees with Uefa's

Gascoigne in fitness race

CATHERINE RILEY

Paul Gascoigne will embark oo a tour of Britain in the next 10 days to try to prove his fitness.

for England's summer events. The midfielder will play in Rangers' last game of the season at Hearts tomorrow and theo travels to Londoo to face arsenal in Nigel Winterburn's testimonial on Tuesday. He is also due to appear at Torquay next Friday night in another benefit game as he attempts to show Glenn Hoddle that he is ready for England's friendly against South Africa on 24 May and the World Cup game in Poland. He could also go to France for the four-nation tournameot at the start of June.

David Murray, the Rangers chairman, interrupted his club's championship celebrations to again redute suggestions ratif Ince is a transfer target. "There is no truth in these reports whatsoever." Murray said. What is the point in paying a big fee for a player who is approaching 30 and then forking out high wages as well? In a year's time. Ince will be a free agent and then there might be

a deal worth talking about." three members of their backroom staff, including their for-mer player Colin Bell The end of season clear-out at Maine Road gathered momentum yesterday when manager Frank Clark announced he was not giving a contract to Dalian Atkin-

son and said that virtually all the key members of his youth set-

up would be leaving the club. Neil McNab, the youth team coach, was sacked along with the youth development officers Terry Farrell and Bell. The move paves the way for the arrival of City's former captain, Paul Power, as director of the youth

ager who rescued the club from relegation to the GM Vauxhall Conference, is to stay at the club after five hours of talks with the oew chairman, Dick Knight.

Billy Bonds, the former West Ham manager, returned to management yesterday - admitting: "I have taken oo ooe hell of a challenge." Boods bas agreed to become Millwall's third manager in barely three months following the departure of John Docherty last week.

ed the signing of Chesterfield's Kevin Davies. The fee for the 20year-old forward, whose hat-trick sank Bolton Wanderers in the FA Cup, will be decided by a transfer tribunal.

Plans to regionalise the lower reaches of the Football League and bring in Conference clubs were shelved yesterday. Af-Manchester City have sacked ter six hours of talks involving most of the 72 Nationwide League clubs, it became clear that there was no chance of the proposals gaining support. David Sheepshanks, the League chairman, said: "We will not be pro-

ceeding with regionalisation." More football, page 29

up of the best leagues a place at Europe's top table and accepts that Rangers would have to win the European Cup to escape the qualification tightrope.

decision to allow the runners-

As the format stands, Rangers could be out of Europe before they kick off the defence of the Premier Division oo 2 August. Smith has already begun trawling for new talent as he accepts that an end of an era is looming. He will try to maintain a strong Scottish accent in his team, but says it is becoming barder season by season...

As the manager spoke, the 35-year-old Gough was on a transatlantic flight to Kansas to start his at w taleer, and a successor to the captain was very much on Smith's agenda.

"There are candidates here like Alan McLaren, Brian Laudrup and Andy Goram who have all captained the club in Richard's absence but I've yet to make up my mind," he said. Smith hasset his sights on as many as half a dozen new signings with Sweden's captain Jonas Thern due to come from There and the Australian de-

Roma and the Australian defender Vidmar from NAC Breda. "Tve made inquiries with a number of clubs about availability, prices, wages and so on. I'd hope to have some movement on that soon. We have three players who will be out of contract. Ian Ferguson has agreed a new threeyear deal and we are still in oegotiation with David Robertson and Gordon Durie, I'll talk again

with them oext week."
Smith admitted it was hard to talk about change at Ibrox with the players that have served time. so well over several years still downing the champlonship champagne. "I have the highest regard for them and the way they have maintained their determination to carry on win-ning," Smith said. It is not easy to talk about change when many bave been terrific players for me in my first spell in foot-

ball management. Smith expects the injured pair Stuart McCall and Sebastian Rozental to be ready for the ing ruled out since October and January respectively. The goalkeeper Andy Goram should be fit for selection for Scotland's games against Wales and Malta before the World Cup qual-

ifier in Belarus on 8 June. Rangers will be back for preseason training on 23 June although Vidmar and Craig Moore have international commitments with Australia, Gordan Petric will be with Yugoslavia and others will have virtually only two weeks off. The Scottish champions will go to Germany for preseason games and face Everton in the Dave Watson testimonial at Goodisoo oo 16 July.

WANDERLUSI 5 M I A N A L CRAFTSMAN NEAT 1 U H E O C N RESIDE ABSENTEE

Refereeing scandal rocks Brazil

"Tell your players to mark

Edmundo [the Vasco da Gama

striker | closely, he gets angry

The man ideotified by Globo

a little bit of a band.

An inquiry is being launched af- £15,000)... if I get a chance I will ter a leading director of the even ask the referee to give you Brazilian national soccer confederation (CBF) resigned

amid allegations of corruption. A scandal erupted after the Globo televisioo station played a recording of a telephooe cooversation which it said was between Ivens Mendes, head of the Col's telefeeing commission, and the president of Atleti-

co Paranaense. In the conversation, the man identified as Mendes offered to ask a referee to give Atletico a helping hand in a Copa Brasil match they were to play at home to Vasco da Gama. The man identified as

Mendes said: "I need you to

as Atletico's president, Mario Cclso Petraglia, was heard to re-ply that Mendes should get in touch with his (Petraglia's) secretary who would "look after it". Atletico won the second round, first leg match 3-1. Ed-

mundo, who has a long record of being sent off, and the Atletico defender Andrei were dismissed in the first half for fighting. Edmundo said of his dismissal: It was a huge injussend me 25,000 real (about

Globo television alleged that Mendes, who resigned on Wednesday claiming he had been threateoed, is seeking election to the Brazilian Congress and used money sent to him by club directors to help his election campaign. Globo said it been sent the tape anonymously.

Michael Schumacher gets familiar with Monaco's palm-lined twists and turns yesterday in practice for Sunday's Grand Prix Photograph: Allsport

Mendes admitted he had re-crived money but claimed it was all above board: "What is wrong with me as a Brazilian citizen who is trying to start a political career accepting help from my friends?," he said.

Petraglia denied he had spoken to Mendes about the game and the match referee, Oscar Roberto de Godoi, said there had been no approaches "even by phone".

Rowley threatens to bring **Bosman problem to Britain**

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Paul Rowley, the Halifax hooker, plans to become the first player in the game to challenge his contract under the Beauty

Rowley intends to follow in the stud-marks of Wimbledon's Vinnie Jones, the Welsh international footballer, in secking to become a free agent under the terms of the groundbreaking European law, should they be applied - as both players believe they should - to domestic transfers.

The Halifax player, whose current cootract expires in December, is angry that his club, who bave rejected two bids for

contract which he regards as derisory. Wigan have made a bid of £150,000 plus a player for the

22-year-old, who represented Great Britain Under-21s and Fingland against France last year, and Leeds have also made a move for him. "Halifax only paid £40,000 to

him, have offered him a new

Leigh for me and they have turned down two bids which are far more than their contract offer to me suggests they think I am worth," Rowley said. "I will continue to do my best for the club - and especially for our coach, John Pendlehury - this season, but at the end of it I want to move on as a free

agent. The current situation in rug-

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by league is that a player at the end of a contract and rejecting a new deal can move to a different club for a fee to be fixed by a tribunal. Where Rowley's case will

ring alarm bells within the game is to bit argument that he should be able to move on without a transfer fee. The Halifax chief executive.

Nigel Wood, said that any change to the current position "would send shock-waves through the game." "The whole issue of con-

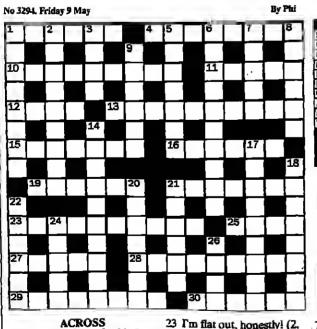
tracts in professional sport is an evolving one, but we have been proceeding in accordance with the Rughy League's by-laws," he said. "We have made Paul an offer that would put him among the highest paid players at the club but, if he is unhappy with that in the light of what he believes be could be offered else-

where, we have difficulties." Wigan's extra man, page 29

and file CHARLES WELLS

BREWED BY THE CHARLES WELLS FAMILY BREWERY, BEDFORDSHIRE . EST. 1876





Chap who's crashed in Le Mans? (6) 4 Apply manure to best clothing? (3-5)
 10 Thieving fellow enters

building - anger follows

- 11 River has a journey (5) 12 Ambassador residing in outskirts of Teddington subsequently (4)
- 13 Close watch from West and East? Yes, when that place is iovolved (7, 3) 15 Fall sick in swell surround-
- ings, and fade away (4, 3) 16 Lecture from young man about EC matter (6)19 Cut back in church investigators (6) 21 Came by 'orse, by the

animal (3, 4)

sound of it, or some other

- 25 Cost to hold the fair (4) 27 Feature of restaurant bill
- brought by the Parisian (5) 9 28 Crept slinkily round Paradise for example (9) 29 Agent collecting art is up-set - very thin quality (8) 30 English officer, diving into sea, came to water (6)
- DOWN A friend going round place that's cut off (8) Italian battle for isle, pos-
- sibly? Not so (9) Was leader about mdependent misrepresented
- Greek hero: the others will appear in Old English saga's opening (7)
 Insert head curiously but
 get cast down (10)
- Run away from some Ravel opera (5) loe-cream: a type that's about to exist (6)
- Part of delivery address for vehicle enemy held back (4, 14 Soive Times in error, with out justification (10)
 17 Like a public statement
- about English King's strain 18 Fixed the location of gold that's observed, nothing
- less (8) 20 Observes plant container for plant disease (3-4)
 21 Left-winger stifling cry of surprise was high (6)
 22 Early form of life strangely
 - formed of suet (6) 24 One snapped up a bone (5) 26 Chap carrying monarch to this place (4)

ملكذا من المومل